

The Jewel of the Crown: Colonial and Postcolonial India in Literature

BMNANO1200M

Kinga Földvâry



Time: Wednesdays, 10.00–13.30

Place: Amb 129, 133

Availability: Wednesdays 8.00–8.30 or 11.30–12.00, by **email:** foldvarykinga@gmail.com

Course material available: <https://sites.google.com/site/foldvarykinga/> (Subpage: India)

Schedule

Week 1 (16 Feb) Introduction, basic terminology and concepts

Week 2 (23 Feb) Rudyard Kipling and his India; *Elephant Boy* (dir. Zoltán Korda)

Reading: R. Kipling: 'Toomai of the Elephants', 'Wee Willie Winkie'; Catherine Hall: 'Histories, Empires and the Post-colonial Moment'

Week 3 (2 March) Indian Poetry

Reading: Extracts from *The Mahabharata*, poems by Toru Dutt, Rabindranath Tagore, Rudyard Kipling

Presentation: Religions of India

Week 4 (9 March) E.M. Forster: *A Passage to India*

Presentation: History of India in the 20th and 21st centuries

Week 5 (16 March) Indian writers of the colonial period: R. K. Narayan, Sri Aurobindo

Reading: Mohandas K. Gandhi: *Indian Home Rule or Hind Swaraj*

Presentation: History of India before the 20th century

Week 6 (23 March) Indian Independence

Reading: Salman Rushdie: *Midnight's Children* Part 1

Presentation: Indian society

Week 7 (30 March) *Gandhi* (dir. Richard Attenborough); **Mid-term Test**

Week 8 (6 Apr) Salman Rushdie: *Midnight's Children* Part 2, 'The Prophet's Hair'

Presentation: Salman Rushdie and the fatwa

Week 9 (13 Apr) Diaspora writing, the postcolonial condition

Reading: V.S. Naipaul: 'One out of Many' / 'Tell Me Who to Kill'

EASTER BREAK

Week 10 (27 Apr) Asians in Britain: Hanif Kureishi's short stories; *My Son the Fanatic*

Reading: 'My Son the Fanatic'; 'We're not Jews'; 'Touched'; 'The Assault'

Week 11 (4 May) Post-colonial India

Reading: Kiran Desai: *The Inheritance of Loss*

Week 12 (11 May) End-term Test

Week 13 (18 May) Evaluation; *Outsourced*

Requirements:

- regular **attendance** (must not miss more than 3 classes) and active participation
- **reading** of primary and secondary literature
- oral **presentation** with handout
- **mid-term** and **end-term tests** on the basis of readings and presentations (alternatively, one of these may be replaced by an analytical **essay**, to be handed in no later than **11 May**)



Other possible presentation topics:

Any book / film about or by an author of Indian origin, interpreted in the light of colonial / post-colonial contexts, e.g.:

- Aravind Adiga: *The White Tiger*
- Monica Ali: *Brick Lane*
- Anita Desai: *In Custody*
- Amitav Ghosh: *The Sea of Poppies*
- Hanif Kureishi: *The Black Album*, *The Buddha of Suburbia*
- V.S. Naipaul: *India: A Wounded Civilisation*; *A House for Mr Biswas*, etc
- Arundhati Roy: *The God of Small Things*
- Salman Rushdie: *The Satanic Verses*, etc