

**EAST 515/ENGL 512**

**Beyond Orientalism/Contemporary Studies in Literature and Culture**

**Literary Cultures of East and South Asia**

**General Information:**

Term and Year: Fall, 2024

Course pre-requisite(s): There are no pre-requisites for this course

Course Schedule: Tuesdays, 11:35-2:25 pm

Number of Credits: 3

**Instructors Information:**

Name and Title: Gal Gvili, Associate Professor

Email: gal.gvili@mcgill.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:35-3:35 pm; Thursdays: 9:55-10:55 am.

Office Location: 680 Sherbrooke, Room 272.

Name and Title: Sandeep Banerjee, Associate Professor

Email: sandeep.banerjee@mcgill.ca

Office Hours:

Office Location: Arts 320

**Course Overviews/E-calendar:**

EAST 515: Asian Language & Literature: Examines the cultural stakes and ethical implications of applying Western European models of understanding to East Asian societies. Provides background on interdisciplinary debates around "otherness", "cultural appropriation", and "postcolonialism", focusing

on their history within East Asian Studies and their impact on that field's methodological assumptions, self-definition, and institutional practices.

ENGL 512: An advanced course that concentrates on literature or culture from the very late twentieth-century to the present. This in-depth course can be defined by a movement, form, genre, issue, author, film-maker, or theme.

### **Course Overview :Literary Cultures of East and South Asia**

How do literary and cultural texts speak to the experience of modernity in South and East Asia? This co-taught seminar seeks to illuminate this question by investigating common and diverging literary portrayals of such modern concerns as the making of national languages, the experience of colonialism, and the early formation of feminism, within emerging modern genres and forms such as realism, the short poem, the epic, and the novel. Our goal is to place the specificities of Asian forms of literary modernity and aesthetics in conversation with global theories and scholarship.

**Learning Outcomes:** Students who will complete this course will: 1. Be familiar with several influential core texts of Chinese, South Asian, and Anglophone Chinese and Indian modern and contemporary literatures 2. Obtain a grasp of contemporary scholarly debates over postcolonialism, nationalism, feminism, inter-Asian studies and literary modernity and discuss how they shed new light on the literary texts that they read in class 3. Learn how to develop a research proposal for a seminar paper by employing a transnational lens 4. Complete a research paper that focuses on primary source analysis bolstered by robust engagement with theoretical sources.

**Required Course Materials:** Course material will be uploaded, or is available through McGill Library. Should students wish to purchase some of the novels they are welcome to do so.

**Attendance:** Attendance in this class is mandatory. Absence of more than once during the dates checked, **that is not backed up by medical documentation**, will result in 1% grade reduction of total grade for every missed session.

### **Assessment:**

Weekly Responses (300-400 words) -	25%
1 Presentation on class readings -	15%
Paper Proposal (2-5 pages) -	15%
Final Research Paper (12-15 pages) -	45%

### **Presentations and Discussion Questions**

Starting September 10, each student is responsible for one weekly oral presentation to be given at the beginning of each class. This student will post in advance two-three questions on the chosen week's reading assignments. Questions should be posted by **Sunday at 5:00 PM** so your fellow students will have time to respond. Your presentation (10-15 minutes) should summarize the main points the readings evoke in relation to what we discuss in class. Please sign up on mycourses presentation roster.

### **Weekly Response Papers**

Starting September 10, each student must post approximately **200-300 words** onto mycourses for every class. Your postings should be uploaded no later than **Monday @ 8:00 PM** to allow your instructors and your fellow students ample time to read through your thoughts. Each posting should respond to one question out of two- three that will be posted under the discussion section on mycourses by the week's presenter. **Please do not summarize the texts but respond to the question by engaging in close reading of the literary works and putting them in conversation with the secondary sources we will be reading.** You are encouraged to focus on one or two particular aspects of the text, and/or raise questions for class discussion. Please cite page numbers. **In the week that you are presenting you do not need to post.**

### **Paper Proposal**

Students will submit a paper proposal of 1-2 pages (not including bibliography) by **November 19** (in class). Specific instructions about how to outline your proposal will be given in class a few weeks prior to the deadline. The grading will be based on students meeting the requested structure for the proposal, coming up with a solid the research question and backing their proposal with an appropriate list of sources. It is recommended to speak to one of us before submitting the proposal.

### **Final Research Paper**

Based on their approved proposal, students will write a 12-15 pages research paper in which they will pose a research question, provide an answer and bolster their answer with evidence—all in essay form. Students are encouraged to divide their paper into sections and may employ primary sources from the syllabus or, in consultation with us, come up with one of their own. Students may draw from secondary sources we read in class but the expectation is to expand beyond them. Specific instructions regarding the research paper will be discussed in class. Grading will be based on the quality of research and the clarity of writing. Students who will produce a clearly written paper which demonstrate the ability to come up with a strong research question and back it with evidence including close reading of primary texts as well as the capacity to put their ideas/arguments in conversation with secondary sources will receive an excellent grade. Students are welcome and encouraged to discuss their research and writing with us.

### **Language of submission**

“In accord with McGill University’s [Charter of Students’ Rights](#), students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in

which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009)

« Conformément à la [Charte des droits de l'étudiant](#) de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté, sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue. » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 21 janvier 2009)

### **Academic integrity**

“McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the [Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#)” (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003) (See [McGill's guide to academic honesty](#) for more information).

« L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le [Code de conduite de l'étudiant et procédures disciplinaires](#). » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 29 janvier 2003) (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le [guide pour l'honnêteté académique de McGill](#)).

### **Statement on the Use of Generative AI tools**

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools or apps for assignments in this course, including tools like ChatGPT and other AI writing or coding assistants, is prohibited and will be considered as plagiarism. However, using spelling check and grammar correction tools such as Grammarly is permitted.

## **Schedule**

**September 3:** Introduction

**September 10: Modernity**

Jameson

Ahmad

Warwick Collective. Ch 1 of *Combined and Uneven Development*

**September 17: Capitalism**

**September 24: World Literature**

David Damrosch. From *What is World Literature*

Auritro Majumder. Ch 1 of *Insurgent Imaginations*

S. Tageldin. Abū Shādī, Tagore, and the Problem of World Literature at the Hinge of Afroeurasia

**October 1: Gender**

Spivak – “Gender and the Novel”

Mahasweta Devi – *Mother 1084*

Sandeep – Forms of Translation

**October 8: Imperialism**

*Babbel*

**October 15: Fall Break No Class**

**October 22: Nationalism**

Wu Zhuoliu – *Orphan of Asia*

**October 29: Religion**

Bankim – *Sacred Brotherhood*

**November 5: Tradition**

John Keats – “Ode to a Nightingale”

Tagore – “Meghaduta”

Gal Gvli – “Shakuntala”

Tamara Chin – “Contact Philology”

**November 12: Forms**

**November 19: Environment**

Can Xue

**November 26: No Class**

**December 3: Discussion**