

Fall 9-1-2001

LS 161L.80: Introduction to Asian Humanities

Ruth Vanita

University of Montana - Missoula, ruth.vanita@umontana.edu

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Fall 2001

LS 161 Hons, Introduction to Asian Humanities
Dr. Ruth Vanita

Tuesday, Thursday, 11.10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

3 credits. Room: DHC 120

Office: Liberal Arts 146A. Office Phone: 243-4894

Email: rvanita@selway.umt.edu

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday 10-11 a.m., and by appointment.

Required Texts

1. The Mahabharata translated by C. V. Narasimhan (NY: Columbia University Press, 1997).
2. Tao Te Ching by Lao Tzu trans. Victor H. Mair (NY: Bantam, 1990).
3. Photocopied course materials.

Recommended reading (on reserve in the Mansfield Library):

4. Rhoads Murphey, A History of Asia (3rd edition, NY: Longman, 2000).

Requirements

Students are required to

- (a) attend classes regularly. Excessive unexplained absences (more than two) will result in a zero for attendance and class participation;
- (b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, participate in discussion, do the assignments, and take the quizzes.
- (c) Two feature films will be shown in the evening. Attendance is required.
- (d) Make a five to ten minute class presentation on any one text. This presentation should be in the nature of a response to the text and should raise questions for discussion.
- (e) Write two papers (5-6 pages) due October 30 and December 13 respectively. A title and abstract of each paper is to be given to me, in advance (see below for dates) and approved by me before the paper is written.
- (f) The 2001 Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies is being held at the University of Montana, October 18-20. Programs will be available in the Liberal Studies office. You can attend any panel or the keynote address and write a short response for extra credit.

Grades

Class attendance and participation will be worth 20%, the class presentation 10%, quizzes and other assignments 20%, and the two papers 50% of the grade.

If you miss a quiz or test, it can be made up later with my permission but except in the case of proven emergency, such late taking of tests will result in a decreased grade.

If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as I have outlined it, please notify me in the first week of class.

Reading Schedule

This schedule is tentative. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with any changes announced in class.

- September 4 Introduction
- September 6 Read Hymns from the Rigveda, extracts from the Upanishads and Katha Upanishad.
- September 11 Read "The Hindu Motif" and "Commentary."
- September 13 Read The Speaking Tree: "The Caste System."
- September 18 Read "Buddhism," "Jainism," (pp. 30-33), and "Therigatha."
- September 20 Read extract from Chitrarekha Gupta, The Kayasthas, and extracts from Folktales from India.
- September 25 Read pages xv-xx (in the Introduction) and pages 35-43 of The Mahabharata.
- September 27 Read pages 50-57, 72-75, 91-92, 110-112, 120 of The Mahabharata. Quiz on parts of The Mahabharata covered so far.
- October 2 Read extracts from The Bhagvadgita.
- October 4 Read pages 138-140, 144-145, 156-159, 162-166, 172-175 of The Mahabharata.
- October 9 Read pages 186-189, 205-214 of The Mahabharata. Quiz on remaining portions of the The Mahabharata and Bhagvadgita.
- October 11 Read Tao Te Ching, pages 3-55.
- October 16 Read Tao Te Ching, pages 59-105. **Hand in title of paper, in class.** Short film in class.
- October 18 Read "Hindu Goddesses," pp. 43-61.
- October 23 Read The Ramayana (pp. 141-155). Quiz on The Ramayana. **Hand in one-paragraph abstract of paper, in class.**
- October 25 Read "Vaishnavism" and Shiva Purana: The Birth of Ganesha.
- October 30 Read extracts from Three Chinese Poets. **Paper due, in class.**

November 1 Read extracts from As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams (pp. 156-171).

November 6 Read extracts from Rumi: Poet and Mystic.

November 8 Read “History of Janabai” and Poems by Women Mystics.

November 13 Read Extracts from writings of Mahatma Gandhi.

November 15 Read “The Miracle” and Mahadevi Varma, “Lachhma.” **Hand in title of paper.**

November 20. A film will be shown. Rashomon

Thanksgiving Break

November 27 Read Artha. A film will be shown in the evening. Pather Panchali, in Room LA 202, 6-9 p.m. **Hand in one-paragraph abstract of paper.**

November 29 Hand in short response to any one of the films.

December 4 Read “The Cabuliwallah.”

December 6 Read “Off the Beaten Track.”

December 11 Read Poems by Vikram Seth.

December 13. Conclusion. **Paper due, in class.**