The Islamia University of Bhawalpur

Department of English

**Course Material Bundle for BS English (Language and Literature) 8st Semester**

South Asian Literature (English)

Course Instructor: Dr M. Ayub Jajja

**Course Outline**: The Suggested Texts to be read for this course are:

*(I)The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid (II) *Salt and Saffron* by Kamila Shamsie (III) *Fasting and Feasting* by Anita Desai (IV*) Train to* *Pakistan* by Khuswant Singh (V) (2Short Stories) *A Pair of Jeans* by Qaisra Sheraz and *Laid Off Man* by Dr Javid Qazi (VI) (Poetry) *Road* by Hina Faisal Imam, *Wedding in the Flood b*y Taufiq Raffat and *Movement* by Alamgir Hashmi. (VII) Ice-Candy-Man by Bapsi Sidhwa

**Important Topics**: (1) The Reluctant Fundamentalist as a postcolonial novel (2) The issue of identity in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (3) Kamila Shamsie’s critique of socio-cultural and economic divisions in *Salt and Saffron*. (4) Anita Deasai’s representation of the misery and suffering of women in Indian society and culture in her novels (5) Khshwant Sing’s representation of Partition in *Train to Pakistan* (6) Sidhwa’s representation of Partition in Ice Candy Man.(7 ) Raffat’s representation of rural culture and Raffat’s idea of fate in *Wedding in the Flood* (8) Qaisra Sheraz’s representation of cultural, psychological and social issues experienced by Pakistani Diaspora in her short story *A Pair of Jeans*.(9) *Laid off Man* as a postcolonial writing/ Qazi’s celebration of South Asian culture and identity. ( 10) *Road,* Hina Faisal’s representation of the discrimination against women in feudal setups.

**Recommended Supplementary Reference Books and Articles and online Links** : Where Worlds Collide Edited by David Waterman Published by Oxford Press Pakistan Karachi. The Novels of Bapsi Sidhwa published by Prestige Books Delhi. Feminism and Contemporary Women Writers published by Routledge. The Reluctant Fundamentalist : A Quest for Identity. By Muhammad Ayub Jajja Journal of Research (humanities) Punjab University. Vol. XLIX January 2013 pp. 81-96. Portrayal of Partition by Bapsi Sidhwa and Kshwant Singh: A Comparative Study by Muhammad Ayub Jajja Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences BZU Multan Vol.32 (1)June 2012 pp. 209-220. The Representation of Women in Anita Desai’s Novels by Muhammad Ayub Jajja . Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences BZU Multan VOL.33, No. 2, 2013pp. 351-361. “Sidhwa’s Portrayal of Partition: An Independent Perspective” by Muhammad Ayub Jajja, Journal of Educational Research IUB,2012, Vol.15, (2), pp.98-109. “Murder of Aziz Khan: A Marxist Study” by Muhammad Ayub Jajja, Journal of Educational Research IUB, 2012,Vol. 15, (1)pp. 67-78.

Salt and Saffron:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/ 269701657\_Tradition\_and\_modernity\_in\_Kamila\_Shamsie's\_Sal t\_and\_Saffron\_2000

https://dspace2.flinders.edu.au/xmlui/bitstream/handle/ 2328/38007/Shirazi\_Salt\_and\_Saffron.pdf? sequence=1&isAllowed=y

http://pu.edu.pk/images/journal/indianStudies/PDF/ 9\_v5\_1\_19.pdf

Murder of Aziz Khan:

http://prr.hec.gov.pk/jspui/bitstream/ 123456789/989/1/693S.pdf

<https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1057/9780230288171_6>

https://www.iiu.edu.pk/wp-content/uploads/downloads/ journals/mayar/articles-wise/Meyar-10-2013/33.pdf

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/ 321758433\_THE\_EFFECTS\_OF\_MARXISM\_ON\_THE\_CHARACT ERS\_IN\_MOHSIN\_HAMID'S\_NOVEL\_MOTH\_SMOKE\_AND\_ZUL FIQAR\_GHOUS'S\_NOVEL\_MURDER\_OF\_AZIZ\_KHAN

Ice Candy Man:

https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/ 10603/130449/10/10\_chapter%205.pdf

<http://www.supersummary.com/ice-candy-man/summary/>

<https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/why-book-icecandy-man-has-been-titled-such-367999>

https://www.academia.edu/11934755/ Portrayal\_of\_partition\_Ice\_candy\_man\_by\_Bapsi\_Sidhwa

A Pair of Jeans:

<http://iqraqbl.blogspot.com/2015/03/a-pair-of-jeans-criticalanalysis.html>

<https://prezi.com/xworkrhm6mmc/a-pair-of-jeans-by-qaisrasharaz/>

Laid off Man:

https://prezi.com/qrelanwym3vd/javaid-qazi/ <https://www.scribd.com/document/440857313/Themes-in-TheLaid-Off-Man>

Wedding in the flood:

<https://sananisarblog.wordpress.com/2016/10/09/pakistani-poetry/>

<http://www.macrothink.org/journal/index.php/ijl/article/view/2651>

https://www.academia.edu/31579119/ Wedding\_in\_the\_flood\_Pakistani\_literature

<http://shuaib6727.blogspot.com/2016/08/a-picture-of-pakistanirural-culture-in.html>

<https://www.slideshare.net/NisarAhmad113/wedding-in-the-flood>

Road:

<https://www.slideshare.net/mariaraja232/the-road-stylisticanalysis>

<http://shuaib6727.blogspot.com/2016/08/an-analysis-of-poemroad-by-hina-faisal.html>

Movement:

https://read.dukeupress.edu/cssaame/article-abstract/10/2/48/319/ Pakistani-Literature-in-English-Past-Present-and? redirectedFrom=fulltext

<https://englishsummary.com/pakistan-movement-alamgirhashmi/>

<http://shuaib6727.blogspot.com/2016/08/an-analysis-of-poempakistan-movement.html>.

The students are encouraged to further explore on their own resources and materials to help themselves

**One Consolidated Final Term Exam:** The students will be required to attempt Five subjective questions.

**Notes/Points for Topic (1):**  **The Reluctant Fundamentalist**. (i) Significance of title. It is a post-9/11 novel. A Pakistani national Changez, named after a medieval non-white non-Christian conqueror, with very liberal and progressive credentials, returns from America to Pakistan with the identity of a fundamentalist. This has reversed and challenged the conventional paradigm of a country like Pakistan being a breeding ground for fundamentalism. (ii) The novel is a typical postcolonial text. Changez speaks and presents his point of view and the American listens. The narrative wants America to take corrective steps to contain terrorism and extremism(iii) Changez recognizes the American by his arrogant bearing . (iv) The narrative Suggests that American policies, attitudes and cultural practices are not helpful towards the control of fundamentalism. (v) He shares with the unnamed American in his monologue the discrimination he was subjected to in America (vi) His American beloved, Erica does not accept him unless he offers to assume the identity of Chris, Erica’s ex-boyfriend. (vii) Even then Erica commits suicide, because she cannot free herself from her obsession with the past. (viii) The narrative suggests that America should be sensitive towards the cultural norms and values of other countries.(ix) After9/11 he is suspected to be a fundamentalist for his origin and identity (x) as a reaction he grows a long beard and stops wearing western dress and returns to Pakistan and assumes the identity of a fundamentalist**.**

**Notes/Points for Topic (2): Fasting and Feasting** by Anita Desai (i) Anita Desai as a Feminist. She highlights gender based discrimination against women in her writings (ii) In this novel she has focused upon the privileges of men and the hardships of women in Indian society. (iii) Significance of the title. Men get all the feasting and women go without food. (iv) The novel is about countless stories of suffering, oppression and deprivation of women. A boy, Arun, is born to a family, the patriarchal family decides to discontinue the education of its daughter, Aruna, so that she can help the family to look after Arun properly. (v) The novel through the misery and suffering of Aruna, highlights the oppression of women in Indian society. (vi) Anamika, another girl, wins a scholarship to Oxford , but the patriarchal family decides not to send allow her to proceed to oxford, because she is a woman. (vii) The boys from the family are sent to study abroad at the family expense, but they squander money on gambling and other such activities. They don’t come even at the funeral of the father. (viii) The story of Mira Masi presents a case of a similar opressin of women. (xi) Anita highlights the hardships of women under patriarchal oppressive and discriminatory system. (x) Anita as a feminist, is for an end to discrimination against women and for their equal rights in society.

**Topic Four (3): Train to Pakistan** (i) Significance of title . (ii)I t is a Partition novel Khshwant Sing presents Indian perspective on Partition in this novel. (iii)The Sikhs are shown very tolerant towards Muslims. (iv) A Sikh young man, Jaggat Singh sacrifices his life so that a Muslim family can reach Pakistan in peace by train . (v) Train loads of dead bodies go from Pakistani side, while this train to Pakistan comes in peace and safety. (vi) In the novel Sikhs and Hindus are shown economically well-off, while Muslims are shown economically depressed. (vii) The novel highlights the historical social and cultural hybridity in South Asia to present Indian perspective on Partition. (viii) The representation of violence at the time of Partition is also from the perspective of India. (ix) The representation of Muslims and Muslim identity is not objective and impartial. (x) Khushwant Singh reveals his religious and national bias in this novel.

**Notes/Points for Topic(4): Wedding in the Flood.** (i)Taufiq Raffat’s representation of rural culture, attitudes and traditions of the past decades. (ii) People are shown to be very simple, not yet exposed to modern life and itsinfluences (iii) They are a farming community. (iv) It is an arranged and traditional wedding with Barat. (v) The bride is to go to Bridegroom’s place in a palky, carried by four people. (vi) The dowry items are very few and simple. (vii) unaware of the lurking death in the shadows, they are concerned about smaller issues of life. (viii) Raffat’s idea of fate is very dark (ix) they all are drowned in the river in flood.(x) The bigger reality of death overtakes everything else.

**Notes/Points Topic(5) Road: (i)** Hina Faisal Imam’s representation of the secondary place of women in feudal setup (ii ) It is a patriarchal(man-dominated )society and culture. (iii)The feudal husband lives away from the inner part of Haveli, busy with his politics, hunting and farming. (iv) The women are confined to Haveli, with huge walls around it. (v) Their freedom of movement is restricted (vi) The husband has hardly time for the family. (vii)They live and exist only to serve the needs of the patriarchal household. (viii) There is no one to support and comfort women in a feudal household.(ix)The poem has highlighted the unhappiness of women among feudal households (x) The language of the poem is very simple and elegant.

**Notes/Points Topic (6) A Pair of Jeans:** (i) Qaisra Sharaz’s representation of the social, psychological and cultural issues experienced by Pakistani Diaspora in short story *A Pair of Jeans*. (ii) Pakistani communities abroad are victims of double consciousness and psychological pressures. (iii) They have to negotiate between Pakistani and western cultural norms.(iv) The younger generation is the main victim of this situation(v) Qaisra Sharaz shows that some Pakistani Families living in England have the inherited patriarchal attitudes (vi) Children grow up as confused and with psychological problems. (vii) A Pakistani family ends the engagement of their son, Farook, with Miriam, because they don’t accept the Pakistani girl wearing western dress.(viii)This family does not have a good opinion about Pakistani girls wearing western dress. (ix) Therefore the title of the short story. (x) Miriam shows resistance and decides to confront the boy on this issue.

**Notes/Points Topic(7) *Laid off Man*:** (i)Qazi’s celebration of positive aspects of South Asian culture and traditions (ii) Qazi shows the colonialist misconceptions about South Asian cultural norms(iii) The Americans in this short story make fun of South Asian culture and traditions(iv) The South Asian institution of arranged marriage is ridiculed by the Americans.(v) Qazi shows in *Laid off* *Man* that South Asian culture has its positive values (vi) He shows that Western culture has its own weaknesses and negative aspects. (vii) The western girl leaves her partner during the crisis. (viii) No one comes to the support of Wilson. (ix) He starts taking drugs.(x) Frustrated, he resorts to violence and is killed by police.(xi) The South Asian couple makes adjustments and can tackle the difficult time with each other’s support. (xi) The positive representation of South Asian culture in this short story makes it postcolonial writing.

**Notes/ Points Topic(8) *Ice-Candy-Man***: (i) *Ice-Candy-Man*as a Partition novel (ii) Sidhwa represents the socio-cultural reality in this novel before Partition(iii) Lenny, a female child, eight years old, is the narrator of the novel. The Ayah has symbolic significance. (iv) Personal and private relationships are impacted by politics and Partition.(v) The Raj machinery is shown favouring India. Sidhwa has highlighted the negative role of the colonialists (Imperialists) at the time of Partition (vi) Muslim majority areas are wrongly given to India to help it have access to Kashmir. (vii) Kashmir is given to India against every principle and rule.(viii) Sidhwa has highlighted the personality of the Quaid and his views on equal rights of the citizens of Pakistan. (ix) Sidhwa has represented the Partition violence and the train massacres. ( x) She has represented the migration of populations and the suffering of people, especially of women, at the time of Partition. (xi) Sidhwa as a feminist has highlighted the discrimination against women ( xii) Women are represented as the worst victims of violence.

**Notes/Points Topic (9): *Salt and Saffron.*** (i)The significance of the title. It signifies and symbolizes the rejection of class based socio-cultural and economic divisions and fragmentation. (ii)Women occupy the center stage in the novel. men occupy a marginal space in the novel. It is for the rejection of classism and other social cultural divisions. (ii) Shamsie’s has represented female characters as strong human beings. (ii) Women occupy the center stage in the novel. (iii) They are free to undertake journeys abroad for education or for employment purposes.(iv) They are also shown as strong enough to take decisions about their lives. women, occupy the central space in the novel (v) Women are represented as sovereign , fully responsible human beings (vi) Women resist patriarchal pressures. Through the metaphor of marriages, Shamsie undermines and challenges the status quo and the socio-cultural divisions. (vii)Mariam Apa, a girl from high class, refuses a proposal of marriage with a feudal lord, but marries a man, who has no material resources. She marries Masood for love and has to leave for Turkey to save herself from the rigid social structure. (viii) Aliya marries, Khalil, with family origins in Liaqatabad, an educated man she loves, in spite of socio-economic differences between the two families. She declines the proposal of a Sindhi Wadera , with his prospects of becoming the future Prime minister of Pakistan (ix) Another girl, Kishwar, coming from aristocratic Sunni Muhajir family , marries a Sindhi Shia, Khurrum, , beyond sectarian, ethnic divisions.(x) Shamsie has undermined the socio-cultural and economic divisions in Pakistan in *Salt and Saffron.* (xi) She is for tolerance and acceptance beyond socio-cultural, economic, sectarian and ethnic divisions. The novel is for dismantling the class structure and other socio-cultural divisions. (xi) The novel has also highlighted the misery of the divided families due to Partition. (xii) The modernist narrative strategies encourage readers to develop critical thinking and the novel undermines and challenges status quo(xiii)The novel has also highlighted the pain and suffering of the divided families due to Partition (xiv) The women are shown to live happily with their choices (xv) the novel celebrates the food, culture and all the good things of Karachi.

**Notes/Points Topic(10), *The Murder of Aziz Khan*:** (i) The significance of the title(ii) The title refers to social, psychological and economic murder of average Pakistanis at the hand of capitalists during1960s in Pakistan. (iii) Ghose has represented an unholy alliance between corrupt political ruling elite and the capitalists in *The Murder of Aziz Khan* in1960s. (iv) It is a story of exploitation of people of Pakistan at the hands of powerful capitalist, with links to corrupt ruling elite and equally corrupt bureaucracy. (v) Through exploitation and corrupt practices, rich people become richer, while the ordinary people are shown sliding down the poverty line in Pakistan of 1960s (vi) The average people are worse off than they were under colonial rule. (vii)They have to sell off their inherited lands to the capitalists to pay off their debts. (viii) They come to the cities to work in the factories of the capitalists (ix) Pakistan is divided into two classes. The capitalists who own almost all the material resources of the country, which are beyond their needs and the poor who cannot feed their children. (x) Anyone who tries to resist this corrupt alliance is made a terrible example like Aziz Khan, whose one son is executed for a crime committed by the capitalist Shah Brothers and the other son is murdered by the same Shah Brothers. His wife dies out of grief, he himself loses senses. His land is taken over by the Shah Brothers without paying him a single penny. Thus the title, The Murder of Aziz Khan. .