

# A PANORAMA OF HINDI LITERATURE, 1500–2000

*Fall semester theme:*

## **AUTOBIOGRAPHY in HINDI**

*Note: this syllabus is completely different from the one taught in Spring 2011: no overlap.*

Undergraduate: HIN 330 / 32025      Graduate: HIN 384 / 32055

Instructor: Rupert Snell — [rupertsnell@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:rupertsnell@austin.utexas.edu)

**Fall Semester 2011 — TTh 2:00–3:30pm — Office hours TBA**

This new version of the **Panorama** course features a selection of autobiographical texts, organized in four sections as shown below. The first three sections focus on 20th-century topics. The fourth features a single and singular text, the 17th-century *Ardhakathānak* of Banārasīdās, often considered to be the first true autobiography in the Indian tradition. Our study of these wide-ranging texts will open new windows onto Indian culture, and will show us a cast of characters whose personal accounts of joyful, sad, comical, tragic, noble, edifying, scurrilous and terrifying moments will entertain and educate us in ways that are to be found only in the “real-life” genre of autobiographical writing.

1. Childhood and Home: कौसल्या बैसंत्री, भारतभूषण अग्रवाल, अमृतलाल नागर, फणीश्वरनाथ रेणु
2. Work and the World: दौलतराम, जावेद अख्तर, शौकत कैफ़ी, शिवरानी प्रेमचंद, हरिशंकर परसाई
3. Fighting for Independence: यशपाल, बिस्मिल, अज्ञेय
4. “India’s First Autobiography”: बनारसीदास (अर्धकथानक)

*All students with a good reading knowledge of Hindi are welcome; a background in the study of literature is an advantage but is not required. Class discussion will use both Hindi and English. Assignments in HIN 384, the graduate version of the course, will be more demanding than those of HIN 330.*

*Please contact Rupert Snell if you have any questions.*

### ASSESSMENT

#### HIN 330

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Text preparation              | 20% |
| Class discussion              | 20% |
| Weekly Hindi-medium exercises | 20% |
| Two annotated translations    | 20% |
| Two essays @ 2000 words       | 20% |

#### HIN 384

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Text preparation              | 20% |
| Class discussion              | 20% |
| Weekly Hindi-medium exercises | 20% |
| Two annotated translations    | 20% |
| Term paper                    | 20% |