



A PANORAMA OF HINDI LITERATURE 1500–2000



HIN 330/384; 31085

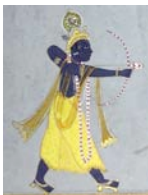
Instructor – Rupert Snell

॥ मंगल ॥ Spring 2009, TTH 9.30–11.00 ॥ गुरु ॥

MEZ 1.120



In this new course we will sample an array of Hindi texts, in the original, from half a millennium of poetry and prose. Our survey will include selections from devotional verse by “poet-saints” such as Kabir, Surdas, Mirabai and Tulsidas, alongside modern classics from the 20th century – and many points in between. As we read poems, short stories, and extracts from novels & autobiographies, we will feel the pulse of cultural and personal sensibilities across the centuries. Our survey will not be chronological but will trace themes across periods and genres. The cultural background of the literature will be studied through English-medium sources; but our main focus will be on reading and discussing the texts themselves, listening closely to the varied voices that have come to us across the years.



Poetry in Braj Bhasha and Awadhi will be accompanied by translations and detailed glossaries: no prior knowledge of these dialects is assumed. Students with five semesters of Hindi, or equivalent knowledge, are eligible to take this class: that is, you need to be able to read modern prose with reasonable fluency...and a dictionary !



Assessment: five short essays on individual authors or genres (5x10=50%), a term paper (25%), and a take-home exam (25%).

For more information – or to see some examples of the literature we'll be reading – please contact rupertsnell@mail.utexas.edu.



By the end of the semester, you will have encountered new writing from 2009; and you will be able to enjoy the poem below, from a manuscript displayed here for the first time in perhaps three centuries.

