Jhumpa Lahiri received the Pulitzer Prize in 2003 for her novel *The Namesake*. Her debut story collection that captures issues of love and identity among immigrants and cultural transplants, *When We Were Cockroaches*, was released in 2006. Lahiri’s novels and short stories are widely regarded as some of the most insightful and original narratives by contemporary writers. Her rich characters in elegant and direct prose. Whether describing bacchanals of a highly India-savvy American or the small, tender moments of young love in a Bangladeshi slum, Lahiri brings to bear the same alchemy of beauty, pathos, and precision of the finest literature.

Lahiri’s novel, *The Namesake*, was published in fall of 2001 to great critical acclaim. The book, which tells the story of Gogol Ganguli, a young man from a prominent Indian family who migrates to America in search of a fresh start, offers ample opportunity for conversation and community. Lahiri’s novel, *The Namesake*, was published in fall of 2001 to great critical acclaim. The book, which tells the story of Gogol Ganguli, a young man from a prominent Indian family who migrates to America in search of a fresh start, offers ample opportunity for conversation and community.

Community Book Discussions

Upcoming Events

October 4

The World of Ashima

Monday, October 4, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Campus WestConn Student Center Theater, Midtown Campus

Discussion Leader: Andrea Randhahn, Reference Librarian

Bring your copy of *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri and join author Andrea Randhahn as she introduces the characters and themes of Lahiri’s novel. A Q & A with the audience and ending with a light refreshment concludes the evening.

October 6

The Namesake

Wednesday, October 6, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Campus Library Auditorium, Midtown Campus

Please arrive promptly as seating is limited.

Discussion Leader: Mark Hasskarl, Danbury Library, Campus WestConn Student Center

Join us for this discussion of Jhumpa Lahiri’s best-selling novel about a young Indian man coming to America and his family searching their new home.

October 9

The Namesake

Saturday, October 9, 7 to 9:30 p.m. (film 103 min.)

Dévi Restaurant, 35 Broadview Middle School Rd., Danbury

Discussion Leader: Mark Hasskarl, Danbury Library

Join us for a discussion of Jhumpa Lahiri’s best-selling novel that explores the life of a young Indian man as he makes his way in New York City. Lahiri’s novel explores the conflicting expectations…to be Indian by Indians and American by Americans. The author’s ability to capture the vernacular and sensibility of the two cultures in the context of the story confirms Lahiri’s gift for writing stories that are different from most others, where different characters are sharing the qualities that have captured the attention of an international audience.

In addition to the Pulitzer Prize, Lahiri has won the PEN/Hemingway Award, the O. Henry Prize, and the Commonwealth Prize. *The Namesake* was released in 2007. The movie, directed by Mira Nair on March 31, 2009, stars Irrfan Khan and Dev Patel. Lahiri’s second novel, *The Lowland*, was released in 2013, as was *Salaam Bombay!,* winner of three Oscar awards for Best Foreign Film. Lahiri’s novel, *The Namesake,* was published in fall of 2001 to great critical acclaim. The book, which tells the story of Gogol Ganguli, a young man from a prominent Indian family who migrates to America in search of a fresh start, offers ample opportunity for conversation and community.

About the Author

Jhumpa Lahiri’s novel *The Namesake* explores the themes and issues of love and identity among immigrants and cultural transplants, and the challenges of leaving home for another, who have known what it means to combine the old ways with the new world. Lahiri’s exploration of these themes is balanced by rich characters that capture the mood, culture and spirit of American life, along with the perils of assimilation, existential alienation, and the search for identity. The narrative follows the Gangulis, an Indian couple arranged in an arranged marriage. Although they have known what it means to combine the old ways with the new world, Lahiri’s novel, *The Namesake,* was published in fall of 2001 to great critical acclaim. The book, which tells the story of Gogol Ganguli, a young man from a prominent Indian family who migrates to America in search of a fresh start, offers ample opportunity for conversation and community.

Mira Nair

Mira Nair is one of the most formidable directors working in today’s elegant Indian cinema, schooled at both ETHZ and Harvard universities, where she loved her husband and learned to love India.

Her films have earned her international and domestic acclaim, including a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, and have been nominated for Golden Globes, BAFTAs and Directors Guild Awards.

Nair’s film *Mississippi Masala* was released in 1991, andmarked her directorial debut. Her 1992 film *Hotel Mumbai* was released in 1993 and was adapted into *Mississippi Masala* in 1995. Lahiri’s second novel, *The Lowland,* was released in 2013, as was *Salaam Bombay!,* winner of three Oscar awards for Best Foreign Film. Lahiri’s novel, *The Namesake,* was published in fall of 2001 to great critical acclaim. The book, which tells the story of Gogol Ganguli, a young man from a prominent Indian family who migrates to America in search of a fresh start, offers ample opportunity for conversation and community.

Mira Nair

Mira Nair is one of the most formidable directors working in today’s elegant Indian cinema, schooled at both ETHZ and Harvard universities, where she loved her husband and learned to love India.

Her films have earned her international and domestic acclaim, including a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, and have been nominated for Golden Globes, BAFTAs and Directors Guild Awards.

Nair’s film *Mississippi Masala* was released in 1991, andmarked her directorial debut. Her 1992 film *Hotel Mumbai* was released in 1993 and was adapted into *Mississippi Masala* in 1995. Lahiri’s second novel, *The Lowland,* was released in 2013, as was *Salaam Bombay!,* winner of three Oscar awards for Best Foreign Film. Lahiri’s novel, *The Namesake,* was published in fall of 2001 to great critical acclaim. The book, which tells the story of Gogol Ganguli, a young man from a prominent Indian family who migrates to America in search of a fresh start, offers ample opportunity for conversation and community.
Lahiri wrote: “10. young man? changes in him as he becomes a 9. relationship to it? Does each relationship reflect the 8. in what ways does the train wreck 7. In what ways does the train wreck 6. How does the inscription in Gogol’s 5. What is the tower of competing worlds felt by millions of immigrants and ways to bridge the gap between cultures? Through their lives, films and novels around, have and can challenge racial and gender stereotypes and generational assumptions. 4. How does the inscription in Gogol’s 3. How does the inscription in Gogol’s 2. think about Gogol’s relationships 1. In what ways do the descriptions of food and its preparation (snack she craves. Later, Gogol has his first solid food in a rice ceremony in a bowl to approximate an Indian wedding. Rice Krispies, peanuts, and red onion 0. An Evening with Mira Nair, director An Evening with Mira Nair, director An Evening with Mira Nair, director An Evening with Mira Nair, director An Evening with Mira Nair, director An Evening with Mira Nair, director. There are many vivid food scenes throughout the book from his father, “The man who gave you your name,” reflect one of the book’s main themes. 3. Think about Gogol’s relationships 2. does each relationship reflect the 1. What is the tower of competing worlds felt by millions of immigrants and ways to bridge the gap between cultures? Through their lives, films and novels around, have and can challenge racial and gender stereotypes and generational assumptions. 4. How does the inscription in Gogol’s 3. How does the inscription in Gogol’s 2. think about Gogol’s relationships 1. In what ways do the descriptions of food and its preparation (snack she craves. Later, Gogol has his first solid food in a rice ceremony in a bowl to approximate an Indian wedding. Rice Krispies, peanuts, and red onion 0. An Evening with Mira Nair, director An Evening with Mira Nair, director An Evening with Mira Nair, director An Evening with Mira Nair, director An Evening with Mira Nair, director An Evening with Mira Nair, director. There are many vivid food scenes throughout the book from his father, “The man who gave you your name,” reflect one of the book’s main themes. 3. Think about Gogol’s relationships 2. does each relationship reflect the 1. What is the tower of competing worlds felt by millions of immigrants and ways to bridge the gap between cultures? Through their lives, films and novels around, have and can challenge racial and gender stereotypes and generational assumptions.