

## **Special guest from India at the University of Siegen**

Last Thursday the students of the course “From Book Reviews to Academic Texts” enjoyed an extraordinary sort of class. Prof. Nilufer Bharucha is the head of the department of English at the University of Mumbai / Bombay and thanks to Cathy Waegner from the University of Siegen Ms. Bharucha visited the course.

First she told something about the history of India and especially about the Parsi, an ethno-religious group to which Prof. Bharucha belongs, who came from Iran during the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. During the British colonial period the Parsi were the elite with economic prosperity and social status; this turned into a low socio-economic status, however, during the post-colonial period.

Nilufer Bharucha is not only a professor who has visited numerous universities overseas but also a creative writer. She has written short stories which often deal with the conflicts among different religious groups, as did the short story called “The Benediction,” which she began reading for the students participating in the workshop. The students then had to be creative and continue the story. The result was a collection of endings, all very different and all interesting.

*Kristin Jacoby*