

South Asian Migration to the United States
AAS 325J (31490) / ANS 372P (31735) / HIS 365G (38295) / WGS 340 (44475)
MWF 10-10:50 AM

Instructor: Dr. Aarti Bhalodia
Virtual Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Description

In this course we will cover migration of people from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to the United States. While studying the history and culture of South Asian America, we will discuss globalization, transnationalism, migration, assimilation, discrimination, and gender and sexuality. The course is arranged chronologically and thematically. We will start in the nineteenth century following the journey of the first South Asian migrants to the U.S. We will then move on to studying the formation of Bengali-African, Punjabi-Mexican, Indian-Puerto Rican and other multiracial communities. We will study how American immigration laws have facilitated or inhibited South Asian migration to the U.S. in the twentieth century. Topics covered include economic and social reasons for migration, adaptation to American life, cultural and religious assimilation, changing family structures, and discrimination and exclusion. We will end the semester by discussing South Asian American life in the twenty-first century.

This course carries the Cultural Diversity in the United States flag. The purpose of the Cultural Diversity in the United States Flag is for students to explore in depth the shared practices and beliefs of one or more underrepresented cultural groups subject to persistent marginalization. In addition to learning about these diverse groups in relation to their specific contexts, students should engage in an active process of critical reflection. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one underrepresented cultural group in the U.S.

<https://ugs.utexas.edu/flags/students>

Course Objectives

Through the semester we will study more than a century of South Asian American history. An important goal of this course is to highlight the diversity within South Asian America. We will encounter a diaspora whose members belong to different religious, linguistic, economic and social groups. Many came to the United States in the pursuit of higher education. Others hoped to achieve the “American Dream.” We will also examine South Asian American interactions with other racial groups in the fields of social activism and community development.

Course Format

Instruction method for this course will consist of a combination of synchronous sessions (via Zoom) and asynchronous sessions (lectures / slides on Canvas). Synchronous sessions will be held during class time 1-2 days a week. You can find the Zoom link on the class Canvas page by

clicking the Zoom tab. Students are responsible for attending Zoom meetings, viewing slides / lectures on Canvas, and completing reading assignments as listed in the class schedule below. Synchronous class time will be used primarily for discussions and participation from students will be crucial.

I will make regular “announcements” on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check the course page on Canvas regularly or turn on notifications.

Zoom Etiquette

Everyone must use their full name in their Zoom profile. You are highly encouraged to also upload a profile picture. In normal times, I learn all of my students’ names within a few class sessions. I will strive to create an engaging and inclusive environment. You all can help in this effort by following some basic rules. Keep your microphone on mute. When you want to ask a question or comment on class discussion, use the “raise your hand” feature. (Click on “participants” and then “raise hand” tab.) When you hear me calling your name, unmute and talk. You can also use the chat function to ask questions or make comments related to course material. If possible, keep your video on, especially when we are having discussion. Sharing video helps us get to know each other.

Required Reading

The course is listed as AAS 325 for all students. You can find most reading assignments by clicking on the “modules” tab in Canvas. If a reading is not available on Canvas, then find it through the library website by using the link below.

https://search.lib.utexas.edu/discovery/search?tab=LibraryCatalog&search_scope=MyInstitution&vid=01UTAU_INST:SEARCH&offset=0

The following books are available in a digital format through the UT libraries. You can download relevant chapters or read online. Use the above link to do a title search.

Vivek Bald, *Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2013).

Vivek Bald, Miabi Chatterji, Sujani Reddy, and Manu Vimalassery edited, *The Sun Never Sets: South Asian Migrants in an Age of U.S. Power* (New York: NYU Press, 2013).

Amy Bhatt, *High-Tech Housewives: Indian IT Workers, Gendered Labor and Transmigration* (University of Washington Press, 2018).

Judith M. Brown, *Global South Asians: Introducing the Modern Diaspora* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006).

Knut A. Jacobsen and R. Pratap Kumar edited, *South Asians in the Diaspora: Histories and Religious Traditions* (Boston: Brill, 2004).

Karen Leonard, *Making Ethnic Choices: California's Punjabi Mexican Americans* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1992).

Vijay Prashad, *Uncle Swami: South Asians in America Today* (New York: New Press, 2012).

Shalini Shankar, *Desi Land: Teen Culture, Class, and Success in Silicon Valley* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2008).

Assignments and Grading

Class participation: 10%

Quizzes: 30% (3x10 points)

Written assignment: 30% (3x10 points)

Small research projects / write-ups: 30% (3x10 points)

Grade	
A	93+
A-	90-92.99
B+	87-89.99
B	83-86.99
B-	80-82.99
C+	77-79.99
C	73-76.99
C-	70-72.99
D+	67-69.99
D	63-66.99
D-	60-62.99
F	<60

Attendance: Normally, I have a strict attendance policy for in-person courses. These are unusual times and I understand that virtual learning in the middle of a pandemic can make participation unpredictable. If you miss more than two Zoom meetings, I will need an explanation. Class participation is crucial and if you do not attend class, you might not do well. The only absences that will be excused are for religious holidays or extenuating circumstances due to an emergency. If you plan to miss class due to observance of a religious holiday, let me know in advance.

Class Environment: My goal is to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and civility in the virtual classroom. Please do your part in making this possible. This involves being respectful of one another, having an open mind, and being willing to have your ideas challenged. Demonstrate respect by listening to others and refrain from interrupting. When posting or asking questions, use professional language. It is hard to read body language in a virtual classroom, so we are limited to reading each other through voice and text. In some cases, course material or

discussions, may make you feel uncomfortable. When this happens remain open-minded and remind yourself that others are entitled to have their own perspective.

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited: No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lectures, slides, videos and assignments, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. Any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

Class Recordings: Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

Assignments: You are not allowed to collaborate on any assignment. All answers should reflect your knowledge and work. If needed, you can refer to class material while answering questions. All assignments will be submitted through Canvas.

Written Assignments: You are required to complete three written assignments, each worth 10%. For each assignment, I will provide a prompt and you will write a three page, approximately 900 words, answer.

Quizzes: You are responsible for completing three quizzes, each worth 10%. Quizzes will consist of short answer questions.

Small research projects / write-ups: You will be working on three short research assignments during the second half of the semester, each worth 10%. I will provide guidelines separately. You should expect to write three pages (approximately 900 words) for each assignment.

Deadlines: All assignments should be submitted on Canvas by the due date. Late work will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Generally, except in the case of an excused absence, work submitted after an assigned deadline will not be eligible for full credit. For every day that you are late, you will lose one letter grade on that assignment. Please communicate with me if you are having problems keeping to the schedule.

If you are having trouble in class or are dissatisfied with your assignment grade/s, come see me promptly. Don't wait until the end of the semester to seek my guidance on how to improve your standing in the course.

Academic Integrity

As per University policy, those who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from

the University. Refer to <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/academicintegrity.php> for more information on academic integrity, plagiarism, and consequences of academic dishonesty.

The Sanger Learning Center

All students are welcome to take advantage of Sanger Center's classes and workshops, private learning specialist appointments, peer academic coaching, and tutoring for more than 70 courses in 15 different subject areas. For more information, please visit <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc> or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

Accommodations

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 512-471-6259 (voice) or 512-410-6644 (video phone).

<http://sites.utexas.edu/disability/>

If you have a disability you need to notify me during the first two weeks of the semester and provide appropriate documentation from SSD (Services for Students with Disabilities).

Counseling and Mental Health Center

The Counseling and Mental Health Center serves UT's diverse campus community by providing high quality, innovative and culturally informed mental health programs and services that enhance and support students' well-being, academic and life goals. To learn more about your counseling and mental health options, call CMHC at (512) 471-3515. If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, call the CMHC Crisis Line 24/7 at (512) 471-2255.

COVID-19 Update

This course may be offered in a format to which you are unaccustomed. If you are looking for ideas and strategies to help you feel more comfortable participating in our class, please explore the resources available here: <https://onestop.utexas.edu/keep-learning/>

For general information on COVID-19 refer to <https://coronavirus.utexas.edu/students>.

Emergency Situation

Please familiarize yourself with recommendations from the Office of Campus Safety and Security (512-471-5767) on what to do in the event of an emergency.

<http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: utexas.edu/emergency.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050. <https://besafe.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line>

Title IX Reporting

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature occurs in our community, the university can:

- Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
- Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
- Investigate and discipline violations of the university's relevant policies.