

South Asian Migration to US
AAS 325 (36275) / ANS 372 (31940) / HIS 365G (39775)/WGS (47795)
MWF 9-10 AM CMA 3.114

Instructor: Dr. Aarti Bhalodia
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Course Description

This course examines the South Asian diaspora in United States. We will focus on Americans who trace their descent to India, Pakistan or Bangladesh. While studying the history and culture of South Asian America, we will discuss globalization, transnationalism, migration, assimilation, formation of a diaspora, discrimination, and gender and sexuality, all major themes in Asian American Studies. The course is arranged chronologically and thematically. We will start in the early twentieth century following the journey of the first South Asian migrants to US. We will then move on to the effects of the 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act. Topics covered include economic and social reasons for immigration, 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. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.

This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

<http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/ccc/teaching-resources/syllabus>

Course Objectives

Through the semester we will study more than a century of South Asian American history. A primary goal of this course is to highlight the diversity in 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 forcibly to seek economic opportunities lacking at home. Others came enthusiastically with dreams of making it “big” in the land of abundant opportunities. We will ask ourselves how monolithic is the South Asian community? We will also examine South Asian American interactions with other Asian American groups in the fields of social activism and community development.

You are encouraged to participate in South Asian American life in Austin. I encourage you to visit the Asian American Resource Center and the Austin History Center to familiarize yourself with Asian American life in Austin and beyond, and to explore the variety of sources available for conducting research for the final paper. I will also bring to your attention relevant films, lectures, art, music and dance performances. Assignments for this course will help you in improving writing and communication skills. Our class meetings will be a blend of lectures and discussions.

Required Readings

Most of the reading for this course is in the form of articles and book chapters. You will find many reading assignments on Canvas, arranged on a weekly basis. Books are available for purchase at the university bookstore and on reserve at the PCL library. Some of the books are also available through the Center for Asian American Studies Library (BUR 480). If you purchase books from another source make sure you have the correct edition.

Textbook: Karen Isaken Leonard, *The South Asian Americans* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1997). Available at the University Coop, PCL reserve, Center for Asian American Studies (CAAS) library

Articles on Canvas. The course is listed as AAS 325 for all students.

Selections from the following:

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

UT libraries – ebook, PCL reserve, CAAS library

Shamita Das Gupta edited, *A Patchwork Shawl: Chronicles of South Asian Women in America* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1998).

University Coop, CAAS library, Canvas

Jigna Desai, *Beyond Bollywood: The Cultural Politics of South Asian Diasporic Film* (New York: Routledge, 2004).

UT Libraries – ebook, PCL

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

UT Libraries – ebook, PCL reserve

Khyati Y. Joshi and Jigna Desai, *Asian Americans in Dixie: Race and Migration in the South* (University of Illinois Press, 2013)

University Coop, PCL reserve, CAAS Library, Canvas

Susan Kosby and R. Radhakrishnan edited, *Transnational South Asians: The Making of a Neo-Diaspora* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).

CAAS library, Canvas

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

University Coop, PCL reserve, Benson library, CAAS library

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

UT libraries – ebook, PCL, CAAS library

Lavina Dhingra Shankar and Rajini Srikanth, *A Part, Yet Apart* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998).

University Coop, PCL reserve, CAAS library, Canvas

Irwin A. Tang, *Asian Texans: Our Histories and Our Lives* (Austin: The it Works, 2007).

CAAS library, Canvas

Raymond Brady Williams, *Williams on South Asian Religions and Immigration* (Ashgate, 2004).

PCL, Canvas

Assignments and Grading

Attendance and participation: 10%

Exam 1: 25%

Exam 2: 25%

Research paper topic and bibliography: 5%

Research paper presentation: 5%

Research paper: 30%

Attendance: You are required to attend all class meetings. If you need to miss class to observe a religious day let me know at the beginning of the semester. I expect to be informed before the start of class if you are unable to attend due to health reasons or family emergency. More than five unexcused absences will affect your grade.

Class participation: You are responsible for completing readings assigned for each week. Participation in class activities is crucial and a component of your final grade. I will hold regular discussions based on required readings in which you are expected to participate. If I am not satisfied with class participation I might give a pop quiz.

Exams: You are responsible for completing two non-cumulative exams, each worth 25% of the final grade. Both will be in-class exams consisting of short answer questions. Bring a blue book to class on the day of the scheduled exams.

Research Essay: The essay is a 10 page (double spaced) research paper due on the last day of class. You are required to formulate an argument using primary sources. I will discuss ways in which one researches and writes a successful paper. A description of the research topic (350 words) along with a preliminary bibliography is due in class on the assigned date.

The final assignment for this course will help you improve your research, analytical, organizational and writing skills. You will also get an opportunity to share your work with the rest of the class. In the final weeks of the semester all students will give a 5-8 minute oral presentation. This will serve as an exercise in public speaking. In the oral presentation introduce and discuss your topic. Tell us why you chose this particular topic. What sparked your interest? What sources are you using? How did you find them? Describe their strength and weaknesses. If you are concerned about public speaking come talk to me and we will figure out a solution.

Deadlines: Due dates for assignments are not up for negotiation. I rarely accept late assignments.

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/sjs/acint_student.php for more information on academic integrity, plagiarism, and consequences of academic dishonesty.

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 512-232-2937 (video phone).

<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

If you have a disability you need to notify me during the first two weeks of the semester and provide appropriate documentation.

The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus. All changes will be announced in class and via email. Make sure you have an active email account with UT.

Class Schedule

August 27 and 29 Background and Introduction to the course

We will discuss course objectives and goals for the semester. Discussion of what it means to be “South Asian American.”

*Judith M. Brown, “Introduction,” in *Global South Asians: Introducing the Modern Diaspora* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), p. 1-8.

*Lavina Dhingra Shankar and Rajini Srikanth, “South Asian Identity in Asian America,” in *A Part, Yet Apart* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998), p. ix-xv.

Sept 3 and 5 South Asia: History, Geography and Culture

*Karen Isaken Leonard, “South Asian Civilizations,” in *The South Asian Americans* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1997), p. 1-37.

*Brown, “Traditions of Stability and Movement,” in *Global South Asians*, p. 9-28.

Sept 8, 10 and 12 Migration and Diaspora

*Brown, “Making a Modern Diaspora,” in *Global South Asians*, p. 29-58.

*Leonard, “Early South Asian Immigrants, 1900-47,” in *South Asian Americans*, p. 39-65.

*Vivek Bald, “Selling the East in the American South: Bengali Muslim Peddlers in New Orleans and Beyond, 1880-1920,” in *Asian Americans in Dixie*, p. 33-53.

Sept 15, 17 and 19 Making of Punjabi Mexican Americans

*Karen Isaken Leonard, “The World of the Pioneers,” in *Making Ethnic Choices: California’s Punjabi Mexican Americans* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1992), p. 17-120.

*Film: *Roots in the Sand*

Sept 22, 24 and 26 Second Phase of South Asian Immigration

*Leonard, “The New South Asian Immigrant,” in *South Asian Americans*, p. 67-106.

*Raymond Brady Williams, “A Brief History of South Asian Religions in the United States,” in *Williams on South Asian Religions and Immigration* (Ashgate, 2004), p. 220-37.

* E. F. Strizhek, “The Ugandan Asian expulsion: resettlement in the USA,” *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 3 (1993), p. 260–264.

Sept 29 and Oct 1 Asian Texans

*Chapters from Irwin Tang edited *Asian Texans: Our Histories and Our Lives*

“A Historical Overview,” p. 1-23.

“The Indian Texans,” p. 181-204.

“The Pakistani Texans, Bangladeshi Texans, Sri Lankan Texans, Nepalese Texans, and Tibetan Texans,” p. 319-40.

Oct 3, 6 and 8 Assimilation and Acculturation

*Leonard, “South Asian Religions in America,” and “Cultural Traditions: Continuity and Change,” in *South Asian Americans*, p. 107-44.

*Sharmila Rudrappa, “Becoming American: The Racialized Content of American Citizenship,” in *Ethnic Routes to Becoming American* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2004).

*Lindsey B. Harlan, "Reversing the Gaze in America: Parody in Divali Performance at Connecticut College," in *South Asians in the Diaspora*, p. 161-79.

In-class exam on Friday, October 10

Oct 13 and 15 Transnational Religious Cultures

*Williams, "Religion and Ethnicity in America," in *South Asian Religions and Immigration*, p. 195-206.

*Williams, "Negotiating the Tradition: Religious Organizations and Gujarati Group Identity in the United States," in *South Asian Religions and Immigration*, p. 207-219.

*Williams, "Asian-Indian Muslims in the United States," in *South Asian Religions and Immigration*, p. 238-45.

*Williams, "South Asian Christians," in *South Asian Religions and Immigration*, p. 246-61

Oct 17 and 20 Hybridity

*Anne Vallely, "The Jain Plate: The Semiotics of the Diaspora Diet," in *South Asians in the Diaspora*, p. 3-22.

*Clara A.B. Joseph, "Rethinking Hybridity: The Syro-Malabar Church in North America," in *South Asians in the Diaspora*, p. 220-42.

* Grace Poore, "The Language of Identity," in Shamita Das Gupta edited, *A Patchwork Shawl: Chronicles of South Asian Women in America* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1998), p. 21-32.

* Lubna Chaudhry, "We are Graceful Swans Who Can Also Be Crows: Hybrid Identities of Pakistani Muslim Women," in Shamita Das Gupta edited, *A Patchwork Shawl: Chronicles of South Asian Women in America* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1998), p. 46-61.

Oct 22 and 24 Family and Identity

*Leonard, "Keeping the Family Together," in *South Asian Americans*, p. 145-70.

*Kirin Narayan, "Haunting Stories: Narrative Transmissions of South Asian Identities in Diaspora," in *South Asians in the Diaspora*, p. 415-34.

*Anna Lindberg, "Transformation of Marriage Patterns in the Kerala Diaspora in the U.S.," in *South Asians in the Diaspora*, p. 203-19.

* Sayantani Das Gupta and Shamita Das Gupta, "Sex, Lies, and Women's Lives: An Intergenerational Dialogue," in Shamita Das Gupta edited, *A Patchwork Shawl: Chronicles of South Asian Women in America* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1998), p. 111-28.

Oct 27 and 29 Gender and Sexuality

*Sandip Roy, "Coming Out of the Almirah: South Asian Americans Struggle with Coming Out in a Gay America that Looks Nothing Like Them," in Susan Kosby and R. Radhakrishnan edited, *Transnational South Asians: The Making of a Neo-Diaspora* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), p. 244-70.

* Surina Khan, "Sexual Exiles," in Shamita Das Gupta edited, *A Patchwork Shawl: Chronicles of South Asian Women in America* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1998), p. 62-71.

* Geoffrey Burkhart, "Identity Dilemmas," in Parvati Raghuram, Ajaya Kumar Sahoo, Brij Maharaj, and Dave Sangha edited, *Tracing an Indian Diaspora: Contexts, Memories, Representations* (Los Angeles: Sage Publications, 2008), p. 299-319.

Oct 31 and Nov 3 Gender and Labor

*Sharmila Rudrappa, "Braceros and Techno-Braceros: Guest Workers in the United States, and the Commodification of Low-Wage and High-Wage Labor," in *Transnational South Asians*, p. 291-324.

*Sonia Shah, "Three Hot Meals and a Full Day at Work: South Asian Women's Labor in the United State," in *A Patchwork Shawl*, p. 206-21.

Nov 5 and 7 Social Activism and Community Engagement

*Nazli Kibria, "The Racial Gap: South Asian American Racial Identity and the Asian American Movement," in *A Part, Yet Apart*, p. 69-78.

*Min Song, "Pahkar Singh's Argument with Asian America: Color and the Structure of Race Formation," in *A Part, Yet Apart*, p. 79-104.

*Sumantra Tito Sinha, "From Campus to Community Politics in Asian America," in *A Part, Yet Apart*, p. 146-67.

Research topic and bibliography due on Friday, November 7 at the beginning of class

Nov 10, 12 and 14 South Asian Americans in Political and Public Life

*Khyati Joshi, "Standing Up and Speaking Out: Hindu Americans and Christian Normativity in Metro Atlanta," in *Asian Americans in Dixie*, p. 190-218.

*Rajini Srikanth, "Ram Yoshino Uppuluri's Campaign: The Implications for Panethnicity in Asian America," in *A Part, Yet Apart*, p. 186-216.

*Vijay Prashad, "The Day our Probation Ended" and "The India Lobby," in *Uncle Swami: South Asians in America Today* (New York: New Press, 2012), p. 3-60.

Nov 17 and 19 Bollywood Comes to US

*Jigna Desai, "Bollywood, USA: Diasporas, Nations, and the State of Cinema," in *Transnational South Asians*, p. 345-67.

*Jigna Desai, "Migrant Brides, Feminist Films, and Transnational Desires," in *Beyond Bollywood: The Cultural Politics of South Asian Diasporic Film* (New York: Routledge, 2004), p. 199-217.

In-Class Exam on Friday, Nov 21

Nov 24 and 26 Research paper presentations

Nov 28 THANKSGIVING BREAK

Dec 1, 3 and 5 Research paper presentations

Research paper due at the beginning of class on Friday, December 5