



Jindal School of International Affairs
India's First Global Policy School



Global South Asians: History, Culture and Politics of the Diaspora

Course Information

Course Duration: 15 weeks

Credit Hours: 4 Credits

Course Level: M.A

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Christine Moliner

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Office: New Faculty Offices, Cabin 033 A

Office Hours: to be arranged by prior appointment

1. Course Description

This course examines the history and contemporary dynamics of international mobility from and within South Asia. It explores both international migration to regions such as North America, Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa, as well as internal migration and regional cross border movements within South Asia itself.

Beginning with key concepts and theoretical approaches to transnational migration, the course investigates the complex social, political, and cultural transformations that mobility engenders. Since the 19th c, South Asians have been central to global histories of labor, empire, and diaspora. We will engage critically with the idea of diaspora, and the broad questions it raises about belonging, identity, and community formation across borders.

We will examine how South Asians abroad have forged new identities, claimed citizenship, and sustain connections with their homelands. Drawing on films, multidisciplinary scholarship, and literature, the course aims to move beyond the binaries of home and abroad to offer a nuanced understanding of South Asia and its diasporas.

2. Assignments

- Internal break up: 70%

Class participation (10%)

2 in-class short assignments +1 film review (30%)

Mid-term Test (30%)

-External break-up: 30%

Final in-class exam

(Detailed guidelines for each assignment will be provided in due course)

3. Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words OR ideas without proper acknowledgement. Any idea, sentence or paragraph you take from a web source or from printed material must be credited with the original source. If you paraphrase or directly quote in the exam or essays, the source must be explicitly mentioned. You should not plagiarize content, be it from scholarly sources (i.e. books and journal articles) or from the Internet.

4. Dos and don'ts

- Be regular in your attendance: it is crucial for your academic performance in this class. As per JSIA attendance policy, an attendance of less than 75% will result in a F-grade for the course.
- Equally important is to study the compulsory readings, which are few in number. This is an essential aspect of this course. If you are not prepared to do the readings, this course might not be the right one for you.
- Do take as much notes as possible from the lectures, compulsory readings, student presentations, in-class discussions, guest-lectures and film screenings.
- Deadlines for all assignments are non-negotiable. If you are absent at the session when your presentation/commentary is scheduled, no rescheduling will be possible.
- This class has a **strict NO MOBILE PHONE policy**: you will have to leave your mobile on the professor's desk when entering the class.

5. Grade Definition

Marks	Grade	Grade Point Average
>=80	O	8
79	A+	7.5
78	A+	7.5
77	A+	7.5
76	A+	7.5
75	A+	7.5
74	A	7
73	A	7
72	A	7
71	A	7
70	A	7
69	A-	6
68	A-	6
67	A-	6
66	A-	6
65	A-	6
64	B+	5
63	B+	5
62	B+	5
61	B+	5
60	B+	5
59	B	4
58	B	4
57	B	4
56	B	4
55	B	4
54	B-	3
53	B-	3
52	B-	3
51	B-	3
50	B-	3
49	F	0
48	F	0
47	F	0
46	F	0
45	F	0
44	F	0
43	F	0
42	F	0
41	F	0

6. Readings

- Judith M. Brown, *Global South Asians: Introducing the Modern Diaspora*, Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Joya Chatterji & David Washbrook, *Routledge Handbook of the South Asian Diaspora*, Routledge, 2013.
- Partha Ghosh, *Refugees and migrants in South Asia*, Sage, 2016.
- Kiran Desai, *The inheritance of loss*, Penguin, 2007.

Readings included in the following session plan are **compulsory**.

7. Session Plan

SECTION 1: Introduction to migration studies		
SESSION 1	Introduction to the course	Presentation of the thematic of the course followed by an overview of the course structure and grading scheme. Major issues and trends in the study of international migrations Main theories, concepts and typologies (1)
SESSION 2	Theorizing migration	Main theories, concepts and typologies (2) Diaspora & transnationalism Reading: Robin Cohen, <i>Global Diasporas: An Introduction</i> , Routledge, 2008 (introduction)
SESSION 3 (26/02)	Migration governance	Politicization and securitization of migration; border regimes; immigration, citizenship and the nation-state
SECTION 2: History of South Asian mobilities		
SESSIONS 4 & 5	Coolies, artisans & traders	Pre-modern and colonial patterns of migration & mobility
SESSION 6	Partition & its aftermath	Political and socio-economic consequences of the partition of British India Case study: the partition of Panjab Reading: V. Fazila-Yacoobali Zamindar, <i>The Long partition and the making of modern South Asia</i> (introduction)
SESSION 7	Forced displacement & internal migration in South Asia	Overview of forced displacement and main refugee movements in and from South Asia Case-study: Afghan refugees Reading: Alessandro Monsutti, 'Afghan migratory strategies', in <i>Refugee Survey Quarterly</i> , 27 (1), 2009. Film screening

Part 3: South Asian Diasporas

<u>SESSION 8</u>		MID TERM
<u>SESSION 9</u>	Post-WW2 mass migration	Post WWII migration flows: mass migration to the UK, skilled migration to North America and Australia; recent settlements in continental Europe
<u>SESSION 9</u>	Migrations to the Gulf countries	Oil boom; labour & skilled migration; female migration; human rights abuses Reading: N. Iskander, <i>Does skill make us human? Migrant workers in 21st century Qatar and beyond</i> , Princeton University Press, 2021
<u>SESSION 10</u>		National contexts of immigrant incorporation, citizenship, political participation; multiculturalism Film screening
<u>SESSION 11</u>	Diaspora politics & homeland politics	National contexts of immigrant incorporation, citizenship, political participation, racism Activism & long-distance nationalism, conflicts in the diaspora Reading: Gurharpal Singh and Giorgio Shani, <i>Sikh nationalism</i> , Routledge, 2022.
<u>SESSION 12</u>	South Asian diasporic religiosity	Theoretical approaches to religion in migration; transnational religious practices; places of worship; patterns of state-church relations Reading: Ester Gallo, <i>Migration and religion in Europe. Comparative perspective on South Asian experiences</i> , Routledge, 2017
<u>SESSION 13-14</u>	South Asian diasporic culture	Hybridity, multiple identities, cultural forms (music, cinema, literature, arts) Film screening