



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

ASIA_V 309 - South Asian Beyond South Asia

Harjot Oberoi

A variety of methods and strategies can be used to narrate the history and complexities of the South Asian diaspora. Richard Rorty, a leading American philosopher and thinker, has suggested that conversation and communication can be the key to many human predicaments. Inspired by this Rortian proposition, this course seeks to initiate three sets of closely related conversations. First, the course seeks to launch a conversation around theorizing South Asian diaspora, numbering close to twenty-two million people and rapidly growing. We do this through lectures, critical readings, and class discussions. However, our focus will be South Asian communities in Canada, England, and the USA. Second, we seek to launch a set of conversations around diasporic themes covering imperialism and colonialism, the political economy of colonial South Asia that led to migration, demographics of immigration, and issues of gender and public culture. And finally, we will address diasporic novels.

Mode of Delivery: In Person

Sample Readings

- (i) Stephen Dufoix: "What is a Diaspora?" California, University of California Press, 2008.
- (ii) Gurcharan S. Basran and B. Singh Bolaria, "From India to Canada" and "Colonialism and Indian Labour." Oxford, 2003.
- (iii) Johanna Lessinger, "Indian Emigrants in the United States: The Emergence of a Transnational Population," in Bhikhu Parekh, Gurharpal Singh, and Steven Vertovec eds., Culture And Economy in the Indian Diaspora, Routledge, 2003.

Assignments

Critical Book Review|40

Class Presentations and Participation|25

Final Exam|35