INTL 190 – The Partition of British India
Prashant Bharadwaj

Class time: Wednesdays 5pm-8:50pm
Office hours (in ECON 318): Wednesday 10:45-11:45am, also by appointment

Grading policy:
Class participation & attendance: 25%
In class presentation: 25%
Final paper: 50%

Course description: This course will attempt to provide an understanding of the partition of British India in August 1947 from the perspective of economics, demography, history, literature and film. Through these different perspectives, the course will provide a broad understanding of some of the facts about this momentous event in world and South Asian history and also address how these facts are remembered and interpreted in popular culture.

How the class works: This is a 2hr 50min class. I will lecture for the first hour of each class, the next 40 mins or so will typically involve a film or documentary. The remaining class time is for in-class presentations, discussion and class participation.

In class presentation: The in class presentation is intended as a way to ensure that everyone participates in class. In class presentations can be considered to be “leading” a class discussion or making a presentation of a topic of interest related to the Partition. The discussion should relate to either the week’s reading, film or lecture topic. In Week 1, I will draw lots to assign presentation dates. All books are available on Amazon – please buy second hand where possible. Mottled Dawn is no longer being published – in case you cannot buy a second hand copy, I can get you an electronic (scanned) copy.

Books:
Aftermath of Partition in South Asia – Kudaisya and Tan
Mottled Dawn – Manto
Train to Pakistan – Kushwant Singh
Cracking India – Bapsi Sidhwa

Recommended Reading:
The Great Partition – Yasmin Khan
The Long Partition and the Making of Modern South Asia – Vazira Zamindar
The Pity of Partition (book about Manto) – Ayesha Jalal
Borders and Boundaries – Ritu Menon
Remembering Partition – Gyan Pandey
Week 1
Lecture: Introduction & background on the Partition
Film: BBC Documentary on Partition

Week 2
Lecture: Partitions in World History
Film: Garam Hawa (Scorching Winds)
Reading: Half of "Train to Pakistan", Aftermath Chp 4

Week 3
Lecture: Empirical works on Partition
Film: Garam Hawa (Scorching Winds)
Reading: Rest of Train to Pakistan, Aftermath chp 5

Week 4
Guest Lecture: The birth of Bangladesh and subsequent foreign policy
Syed M. Ali, Former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh
Reading: Aftermath Chp 6

Week 5
Lecture: Economic impact of civil conflicts
Film: Subarnarekha (Bengali)
Reading: Half of "Cracking India", Aftermath Chp 8

Week 6
Lecture: Hindu-Muslim violence in India
Film: 1947: Subarnarekha (Bengali)
Reading: Rest of "Cracking India"

Week 7
Lecture: Women during Partition
Film: Khamosh Pani (Silent Waters)
Reading: First third of Mottled Dawn

Week 8
Lecture: Colonial overhang in India
Film: Khamosh Pani (Silent Waters)
Reading: second third of Mottled Dawn

Week 9
Lecture: Muhajirs in Pakistan; recent events in Bangladesh
Film: snippets from Midnight's Children
Reading: final third of Mottled Dawn, Aftermath Chp 7

Week 10
Lecture: Course wrap up, loose ends, Aftermath Chp