

## **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