

COURSE TITLE:
India beyond borders:
Critical perspectives on the study of contemporary India

2) COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to a number of cutting-edge issues relevant to the study of contemporary India through a critical lens of borders and bordering processes. Students will be exposed and introduced to a range of key themes, concepts and debates which will be utilised to examine how borders are evoked enforced and maintained not only within India but also across the territorial borders which it claims.

This course will be accessible to students with limited familiarity with the region of South Asia but will also be challenging for students who may have some acquaintance with South Asia and India. Students who took 'Understanding Contemporary India' in 2021 are welcome, as the topics covered will differ from the curriculum last year.

Each session will be run using a range of different teaching methods, resources and tools such as film, case studies and interaction in order to make the course enjoyable, tangible and stimulating. Through each topic, students will develop a familiarity with a range of cutting-edge topics and issues pertaining to contemporary India.

Course language

English

Course objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- comprehend key issues and debates related to contemporary India
- understand the constructed nature of a number of different types of borders-territorial, symbolic, geographical, social, etc.
- apply an analytical lens towards India in relation to the societies it relates to
- understand and interpret selected issues by using interdisciplinary, social science approaches

Teaching Format:

Each day's seminars will comprise of two sections divided between:

- an asynchronous guided curriculum with recordings and links which students should watch, read and review
- a synchronous live interaction

Topics:

Week 1:

5 July: 1947-2022: Border crossings: the 75th anniversary of the partition of India

6 July: Majoritarianism and authoritarianism: From the Congress to the BJP

7 July: Hindutva ideology and its targets

8 July: Kashmir, the Northeast and other 'states of exception'

Week 2:

12 July: Gender-based violence

13 July: The farmers' protest 2020-2021

14 July: Ethnographies of diaspora: roots and routes

15 July: Art and culture in the shaping of popular protest in India

Mode of Assessment:

Attendance & participation (10%)

Draft Essay Plan (0%)

Final Essay (90%)

3) COURSE SYLLABUS

Name of instructor:

Professor Navtej K. Purewal, SOAS University of London

Type of Class Arrangement:

A1

4-15 July 2022

Sessions 7-10 (15:10-19:10)

15:10-16:00

16:10-17:00

17:20-18:10

18:20-19:10

Core readings:

In addition to a broad selection and range of online resources and journal articles, several books will be utilised:

Chattha, Ilyas (2021) *The Punjab Borderland: Mobility, Materiality and Militancy 1947-1987*, Cambridge University Press.

Hansen, Thomas Blom (2021) *The Law of Force: The Violent Heart of Indian Politics*, Aleph Books: New Delhi.

Kalra, V. and N. Purewal (2019) *Beyond Religion in India and Pakistan: Gender and Caste, Borders and Boundaries*, Bloomsbury: London.

Zamindar, Vazira Fazila-Yacoobali (2010) *The Long Partition and the Making of Modern South Asia: Refugees, Boundaries, Histories*, Columbia University Press.