RELIGIOUS STUDIES 162F

SOUTH ASIANS IN THE UNITED STATES

Spring 2009  MW 11:00-12:15, Psychology 1924
Instructor:  Gurinder Singh Mann
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Office hours:  MW  1:30-2:30

Catalogue Description: The course deals with the history of migration of South Asians to the United States and examines the impact of this move on their social, cultural, and religious identities. In the process, we attempt to understand these people’s efforts to transplant their heritage in the adopted land, their efforts to contribute to the American society, and their relationships with the parent communities in South Asia.

Requirements:

1. Class attendance
2. April 20, a quiz on the readings of week 1-3 (10%)
3. April 24, Friday (3-4:30 pm), visit to Vedanta temple in Montecito
4. May 11, midterm examination in class (35%)
5. May 17, Sunday (12.30-2.30), visit to Sikh temple, 3076 Loma Vista, Ventura
6. May 20, Sikh temple report (3 pages) due in class (10%)
7. May 25, a quiz on the readings of week 7-8 (10%)
8. June 3, a research paper (8 pages) due in class (35%)
   The topic of the paper is to be decided in consultation with the instructor

Required Books:

G.S. Mann, et al., Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs of America (NY: OUP, 2007)
A course reader is available at the Alternative Copy Shop in I.V. (968-1055)

Recommended Books:

Arthur W. Helweg and Usha W. Helweg, An Immigrant Success Story
   (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania, 1990)

For general information:
South Asia Diaspora Archive at U. C. Berkeley Library
   www.lib.berkeley.edu/SSEAL/SouthAsia/diaspora.html
Bibliography http://www.transcomm.ox.ac.uk/wwwroot/south.htm#south%20asians

Schedule of Classes and Readings: Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are recommended.

Week 1 March 30-April 1

I. From Migration to Diaspora, and Trans-nationalism
II. South Asian migration
Colin Clarke, et al., eds., South Asians Overseas (New York: Cambridge UP, 1990), 1-29
Madhavi Kale, “Projecting Identities: Empire and Indentured Labor…,” in Peter van der Veer, ed., Nation and Migration (Uni. of Pennsylvania, 94), 73-92
“The Coolies” (2002), a BBC documentary about Indian indentured labor

Week 2 April 6-8

I. Early Migration to the U.S.
Harold S. Jacoby, History of East Indians in America (2007), 1-32
Harold A. Gould, Sikhs, Swamis, Students, and Spies (2006), 133-147
Recommended: Sadhu Singh Dahami, Maluka (Patiala: Punjabi University, 1997)
Dalip Singh Saund, Congressman from India (New York: E.P. Dutton, 1960)
Ronald Takaki, Strangers from a Different Shore (Penguin, 89), 294-314

II. In the post-1965 phase
Madhulika S. Khandelwal, ”Indian immigrants in Queens, New York,” in Peter van der Veer, ed., Nation and Migration, 178-196

Week 3 April 13-15

I. From 2000 Onward
Smitha Radhakrishnan, “Examining the “Global” Indian Middle Class: Gender and Culture in the Silicon Valley/Bangalore Circuit,” Journal of Intercultural Studies (29:1, 2008), 7-20

II. In the Post 9/11. U.S.
“We Are Americans Too.” A Comparative Study of the Effects of 9/11 on South Asian Communities by June Han, Harvard University (2006)
Rita Verma, Backlash: South Asian Immigrant Voices on the Margins (Rotterdam: Sense Publisher, 2008). 39-57
“Divided We Fall,” a film by Valarie Kaur

Week 4. April 20-22

April 20 A quiz on the readings of week 1-3, (10%)

I. The Hindus
G.S. Mann, et al., Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs of America, (2008), 43-95

Recommended: Diana L. Eck, “Negotiating the Hindu Identities in America,” in Harold Coward et al eds., The South Asian Religious Diaspora, 219-237

“Puja,” a film about Hindu religious life

II. The Appeal of Hinduism in America

Recommended: Their official website at http://www.iskcon.com/

“Your Ever Well Wisher,” a film about the ISKCON movement

April 24th, Friday 3-430pm, Visit to Vedanta Temple, Montecito

Week 5 April 27-29

I. The Buddhists
G.S. Mann, et al., Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs of America, (2008), 1-42

Recommended: Rick Fields, How the Swans Came to the Lake: A Narrative History of Buddhism in America (Boston: Shambhala, 1992)

II. The Jains  Guest lecture by Dr. Narendra Parson


Week 6 May 4-6

I. The Muslims
Jane I. Smith, Islam in America (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), 1-21
Yvonne Y. Hadad, At Home in the Hijra,” in Harold Coward et al eds., The South Asian Religious Diaspora, 239-258

II. The Christians  
Guest lecture by Kerry San Chirico
Eric J. Sharpe, “Christianity in India,” in Robert D. Baird, ed., Religion in Modern India (Delhi: Manohar, 1989), 221-238
Raymond B. Williams, “South Asian Christians in ... the U. S.,” in Harold Coward..., The South Asian Religious Diaspora, 13-33

Week 7 May 11-13

I. Mid-term

II. The Sikhs
G.S. Mann, et al., Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs of America, (2008), 96-133
G.S. Mann, “Sikhism in the USA,” in Harold Coward et al., eds., The South Asian Religious Diaspora, 259-276
“Turbans” (2000), a film about cultural compromises by Erica Surat Anderson.

May 17, Sunday, 12.30-2.30  Visit to Sikh temple, 3076 Loma Vista, Ventura

Week 8  May 18-20

I. The El Centro community
“Roots in the Sand” (1997), a film about the early Sikh settlers in El Centro, CA.

May 20, The Sikh temple report (2-3 pages) due in class (10%)

II. The 3HO  Guest lecture by Kirtan Singh
S.S. Shanti Kaur Khalsa, Sikh Dharma of the Western Hemisphere (Espanola: Sikh Dharma International, 1995), 1-23
C.W. Elsberg, Graceful Women (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2003), 54-90, and 344-345
Recommended: “Sikhs” (1995), a film by Huel Howser

Week 9 May 25-27

I. Memorial day

II. South Asian American Women
Recommended: “Bhaji on the Beach,” a film by Gurinder Chaddha
Week 10 June 1-3

I. South Asian-American Youth
Selections from Sunaina Maira et al., eds., *Contours of the Heart: South Asians Map North America*, 91, 92-106

**Recommended:** Movies: “East is East” (1999) and “My Son the Fanatic” (1998)

II. Looking to the future


**Final paper due in class**