

**The Partition of India in History and Literature**  
History 350L/ ANS 361/ ISL 371

Unique #s 39520/ 31700/ 41690  
GAR 1.126  
MW 3:30-5:00

Spring '13  
Gail Minault  
GAR 3.118

**Textbooks**

**Required:**

Yasmin Khan, The Great Partition  
Gyanendra Pandey, Remembering Partition  
Ritu Menon & Kamla Bhasin, Borders & Boundaries

**Choose one of the following:**

Ahmad Salim, ed., Lahore 1947  
Urvashi Butalia, The Other Side of Silence

**Choose one of the following:**

Bapsi Sidhwa, Cracking India  
Khushwant Singh, Train to Pakistan

**Or one of the following:**

S. Cowasjee & KS Duggal, eds., Orphans of the Storm (short stories)  
M. Umar Memon, tr. & ed., An Epic Unwritten (“ ”)

In addition to the textbooks, there will be readings on Blackboard.

This is an undergraduate seminar that will examine the causes and effects of the partition of British India in 1947 into the nation states of India and Pakistan. The Partition rivals the Holocaust as one of the most horrific events of twentieth-century history. Hundreds of thousands lost their lives, millions lost their homes, migrations of unimaginable magnitude took place. It is important to understand the backgrounds and reason for the partition, but also to consider its effects on the lives of the people involved. For that, historians need to use sources imaginatively. The accounts of government documents and even eye-witnesses may not be enough; imaginative literature helps fill in the gaps in understanding the emotional impact of these events on people's lives. So we will read historical accounts, but also literature—some autobiographical or biographical accounts, others fictional—that capture the sense of the times. There will also be one film, since cinema also helps capture both the horror and the repercussions of these events.

We will also discuss the phenomenon of partition more generally. How does the partition of India compare to other partitions (Ireland, Palestine)? Is partition a solution to major political and cultural problems, and if so which ones? Does it avoid civil wars? Does it create more problems and conflicts than it solves? These are philosophical as well as political questions, and they have not gone away, since the antagonisms that were supposed to be addressed by the partition persist, and since recent events in Bosnia and Iraq once again have presented us with questions about the wisdom, or not, of partitioning countries. We will doubtless have lots to talk about.

That brings us to the requirements and procedures for the course. This course flies the writing (Wr) and global cultures (GC) flags. This is a discussion and writing course, not a lecture course. You are here to participate and to share your ideas on the

readings. I am here to act as a moderator of the discussions and as an editor and commentator on your papers, in order to help you write better. Each day, one student will serve as discussion leader, and will write up a report of the discussion to be handed in a week later. You will also write two short papers (book reports), and one longer, research paper (details on separate sheet). In order to insure that the class is fruitful for everyone, however, you must do the readings and turn up. I will take attendance, and more than three absences over the course of the semester will lead to a reduced grade. Grading is on the plus and minus system. Grade percentages: Class participation, discussion, and reports - 30%; two short papers (on the selections listed above) – 20% each; final research paper – 30%. The History Dept's statement on plagiarism/academic dishonesty is on Blackboard. The university has an honor code. Take it seriously. Be wise; don't plagiarize.

I enjoy meeting my students personally and urge you to visit my office during office hours at least once during the semester, especially to discuss your research project for the final paper. My office is GAR 3.118; phone: 475-7214; email: [gminault@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:gminault@austin.utexas.edu). Office hours: MW 1:30-3, or by appointment.

### **Summary of due dates:**

- Monday, Feb. 11: 1<sup>st</sup> book report
- Wednesday, March 6: Research topic due
- Wednesday, March 20: 2<sup>nd</sup> book report
- Wednesday, March 27: Preliminary research bibliographies due.
- April 15, 17, 22, 24, 29 – Oral class presentations of research projects
- Monday, May 6: Research paper due

Please note that assignments handed in late will be penalized (see paper assignment sheet for details). I accept medical excuses, but only if you notify me of them by the due date of the assignment, with documentation. For students with disabilities: Please request appropriate academic accommodation from the Division of Diversity Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259. Do so early in the semester, so that appropriate measures can be taken before major assignments are due.

### **Reading assignments**

Jan. 14 - Introduction to the Course

Jan. 16 – Partition: Historical Background

Read: Yasmin Khan, The Great Partition, pp. 1-39.

Gyanendra Pandey, Remembering Partition, pp. 1-20.

General discussion

Jan. 21 – MLK Jr. Holiday

Jan. 23 – Partition: Historical Background II

Read: Khan, Great Partition, pp. 40-62.

Pandey, Remembering Partition, pp. 21-44.

TG Fraser, Partition in Ireland, India, & Palestine, pp. 1-19 (Blackboard).  
 Faiz Ahmad Faiz, "Freedom's Dawn," tr. by VG Kiernan (handout)

Discussion leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Jan. 28 – Partition Considered – The Role of the Leader

Read: Khan, Great Partition, pp. 63-103.

Fraser, Partition..., pp. 68-92 (BB).

Mushirul Hasan, ed., India's Partition, pp. 44-58, 159-95 (BB).

Excerpt from Jinnah's speech of Aug. 11, 1947, Sources of Indian Tradition, vol. 2, pp. 384-87 (BB).

Discussion leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Jan. 30 – Partition Considered II – High Politics and the View from the Street

Read: Khan, Great Partition, pp. 104-42.

Fraser, Partition..., pp. 93-129 (BB).

Hasan, India's Partition, pp. 101-31, 390-95 (BB).

Discussion Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Feb. 4 – Questions of History - The Portrayal of Violence

Read: Khan, Gt. Partition, pp. 143-66.

Pandey, Remembering Partition, pp. 45-66.

Discussion leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Feb. 6 – Questions of History II – The Evidence of Memory

Read: Khan, pp. 167-85.

Pandey, pp. 67-91.

Discussion leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Feb. 11 – **1st Paper due** (Lahore 1947 or Other Side of Silence)

Read: Khan, pp. 186-210.

Continuation of discussion on memory & history.

Feb. 13 – Questions of History III – The Search for Narrative

Read: David Gilmartin, "Partition, Pakistan, and South Asian History: In Search of a Narrative," Jl. of Asian Studies, 57: 4 (Nov. 1998), 1068-95 (BB).

Discussion leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Feb. 18 & 20 – Mass Mobilization

Read for this week: Mushirul Hasan, India's Partition, pp. 132-58 (BB).

Ian Talbot, Freedom's Cry, pp. 23-58 (BB).

Pandey, Remembering Partition, pp. 92-120.

Minault, "Urdu Political Poetry...", Modern Asian Studies, 8: 4 (1974), pp. 459-71 (BB).

Discussion leaders: Mon: \_\_\_\_\_ Wed.: \_\_\_\_\_

Feb. 25 & 27 – Punjab and Delhi

Read for this week: Hasan, India's Partition, pp. 196-229 (BB).

Pandey, pp. 121-51.

Vazira Zamindar, The Long Partition, pp. 19-44; 45-76 (BB).

Discussion leaders: Mon: \_\_\_\_\_ Wed: \_\_\_\_\_

March 4 & 6 – Bengal

Read for this week: Hasan, pp. 254-73, (BB).

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Remembered Villages: Representations of Hindu-Bengali Memories in the Aftermath of the Partition," South Asia, 18

(1995), pp. 109-29 (BB).

Discussion leaders: Mon: \_\_\_\_\_ Wed.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Research topics for final papers due.

### Spring Break

Mar. 18 – Questions of History IV – The Strength of Literature

Read: Ian Talbot, "Literature and the Human Drama of the 1947 Partition," South Asian Studies, 18 (1995), pp. 37-56 (BB).

Jason Francisco, "In the Heat of Fratricide...," Annl. of Urdu Studies, 11 (1996), pp. 227-50 (BB.).

Discussion leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Mar. 20 – **2<sup>nd</sup> Paper due** (novels, or short stories) – see separate sheet

Film: "Khamosh Pani," plus discussion

Mar. 25 – Partition and Women I

Read: Ritu Menon & Kamla Bhasin, Borders and Boundaries, pp. x-64.

Discussion leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Mar. 27 – Partition and Women II

Read: Pandey, pp. 152-74.

Discussion leader: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Preliminary bibliographies due for research papers; think about signing up for your oral presentation.

Apr. 1 – Partition and Women III

Read: Menon & Bhasin, pp. 66-165.

Discussion leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Apr. 3 - Partition and Women IV

Read: Menon & Bhasin, pp. 168-260.

Discussion leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Apr. 8– Community Identity

Read: Pandey, pp. 175-205.

Discussion leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Apr 10 – Conferences on research topics, presentations, etc.

I will be available in my office

Apr. 15, 17, 22, 24, & 29 – Student presentations of research projects

(4 per day, ca. 20 mins. @)

Sign ups: 4/15 \_\_\_\_\_

4/17: \_\_\_\_\_

4/22: \_\_\_\_\_

4/24: \_\_\_\_\_

4/29: \_\_\_\_\_

May 1 – Class dinner party at my house

Time TBA

**NB:** Final research papers will be due, Monday, May 6, by 5 PM at my office (GAR 3.118) or the History Dept. main office (GAR 1.104). You may submit them electronically, but I prefer to get a hard copy.