Course Description:

This course is an exploration of the concepts of migration, diaspora and transnationalism and their intersections with theory and practice. The course examines various perspectives and issues related to migration and diaspora studies addressing the following questions: what are the forces and factors of migration?; what are connections between globalization, transnationalism and diaspora?; what is the nature of the interface between global and local phenomena? The course will also introduce students to the major themes in South Asian migration and diaspora. It particularly seeks to explore the history of South Asian migrants in the Europe, United States and elsewhere. Each of these diaspora communities of South Asian origin has a distinct story. In this course, we will examine the parallels and divergences in these narratives which are all connected through the idea of the ‘homeland.’ Some of the most current scholarship on the South Asian migration and diaspora will be consulted to examine issues of culture, ethnicity, identity, gender and sexuality, assimilation, acculturation, multiculturalism and discrimination. The course will draw from multidisciplinary sources, combining academic readings and theoretical essays along with films and works of fiction to understand complex issues of migration and diaspora. The suggested readings contain an extensive list of possible texts. The course instructor will select a series of texts from each section that will become compulsory texts for the course each time it is offered.

Readings and specific chapters for books will be announced in class the week before. Students are advised that readings will either be emailed as pdfs or available as photocopy off prints in the library.

Assessment Essay: Internal assessment for the course will involve one midterm and one final exam (30 % each) as required by regulations of SAU as well as presentation (5 %) and research paper based on qualitative and/or quantitative analysis about diaspora members from India/or any country of origin in the neighborhood or refugees living in New Delhi or comparative analysis of different diaspora communities (25 %). The topic of research paper will have to be chosen together with the instructor and you are expected to write an essay between 5,000-6,000 words. You will be notified about the guidelines and due dates during the semester. The students are also expected to write 2 pages-long response paper on a movie/documentary related with our subject (10 %).
Week 1 Introduction

Spread across two classes.


Week 2 Theoretical Approaches and Introduction to Globalization and Transnational Migration

Class 1 & 2

The first class of the week will introduce students to existing theoretical approaches covering classical approaches. Then we shall deal with the relationship between movement and place

What is globalisation? What do we understand as global flows of ideas, goods and people? What makes globalisation so important to our present world? Does globalisation make us rethink prior approaches to migration?

Appadurai, A. 1990, ‘Disjunction and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy.’ In, Theory, Culture and Society, 7(2-3)


Week 3 Diasporas

Class 1
What is Diaspora? What kind of ideas and social formations do we look at when we deal with diaspora?


http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/soc/faculty/brubaker/Publications/29_Diaspora_diaspora_ERS.pdf

Class 2 The South Asian Diaspora.

Should we look at South Asian Diasporas in the plural? What are the histories and experiences we must consider when we think about the South Asian Diaspora?

Class exercise-
Look at two of the cases. Think back to the readings for class1 for the week. How do the south Asian cases relate to some of the existing theoretical engagements on Diasporas? The class will be divided into three groups where you will discuss your observations. Each group will put together a short presentation in class


There are more readings in the library.

*Pakistan and its diaspora : multidisciplinary approaches*
by Lyon, Stephen M ; Bolognani, Marta .
: Copies available for loan: SAU Library [954.91053 P1525] (1).

*Masculinity, sexuality, and illegal migration : human smuggling from Pakistan to Europe*
Week 4 Immigration, Multi-Culturalism and managing migration

Class 1
What is Immigration? What is Multiculturalism?


Read Chapter 8-Immigration and the Chauvinism of Prosperity. Available in the library


Class 2 Managing Migration


**Masculinity, sexuality, and illegal migration: human smuggling from Pakistan to Europe**
by Ahmad, Ali Nobil .

Type: Book; Format: print bibliography; Literary form: not fiction; Publisher: Farnham, Surrey ; Burlington, VT : Ashgate, c2011. Availability: Copies available for loan: SAU Library [364.137 A2861m]

**Week 5 Rethinking flows- reverse flows and internal migration**

Class 1

First migration is typically treated as a movement from one point on the map to another. Yet there is a growing recognition of migration involving two way movements. The first class will take the case of return migration and then the issue of remittances.


Also available in the Vertovec, Steven (ed) Migration Vol II. *Available in the library*


Migration in South Asia often takes place within the region and even within the country historically. What does internal migration mean in an age of globalisation?


Shah, Alpa. 2006. The Labour of Love: Seasonal Migration from Jharkhand to the Brick Kilns of Other States in India. *Contributions to Indian Sociology (n.s.)* 40 (1): 91-119


Week 6 - Forced Migration

The 20th century is many respects the century of forced migration, with large numbers of people being displaced from their homes due to conflict and disasters. Often the emergence of the modern nation state has been accompanied by large scale displacement and ‘transfer of populations’.


Class 2 Cases
Cases from South Asia, namely the Indian partition and recent experiences of forced migration in Sri Lanka. There will be an attempt to get students to think about forced migration in a comparative approach by introducing them to readings on forced migration in other parts of the world.

Class Exercise: Form into 3-5 groups and make presentations in the class between one South Asian case and one non-south Asian case. Choose from the list below


**South Asian cases—**


**Week 7- Locating Migration in an unequal world-gender and class**

This week will cover the question of gender. Is a migration a gender neutral phenomenon or does the lens of gender reveal different dimensions of migration as a process? How does class/caste affect the experiences of different groups of migrants? The readings will pay special attention to lives and experiences of economic labour migrants and forced migrants.

**Class 1- Gender**


**Class 2- Class and Transformation**


Fuller, Christopher and Haripriya Narsimhan. 2008a From landlords to software engineers: migration and urbanization among Tamil Brahmans. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 50: 170-96.


**Week 8-Migrant spaces-home, place and belonging and Diasporic nationalisms**

**Class 1-Siting Migrants**


**Class 2-Diasporas and Nationalism**


