

ANTH 130I — Cultures of India

Summer 2022

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<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/94888674366?pwd=WDM4L1dZbVRyTFNNOXFyakw5WEwwdz09>

Meeting ID: 948 8867 4366 Passcode: 836364

Summer Session Information

Summer is unique. **You will not be dropped for non-attendance or non-payment.** You must drop yourself. Dropping before the deadline results in a full tuition reversal/refund. Withdraw posts a W for the grade, and full tuition is charged (no refund).

For all dates and deadlines, including the ‘change of grade option’ (P/NP) and grades due, [check the summer academic calendar](#).

Important Summer Session Remote 2022 Deadlines:

Session 2:

- Drop: Monday, August 2
- Request for “W”: Friday, August 13

For questions about dropping, requesting a W grade for a course, or withdrawing from the summer quarter, email summer@ucsc.edu.

- [Summer Session Resources](#)
- [Learning Support Services](#)

Course Information

Introduction

This course is an introduction to modern Indian culture and society. India has gone through rapid and unimaginable changes since its independence in 1947. We will be using ethnographies, memoirs, films, and other literary sources to explore unity in the diversity that India is known for. We will focus on important markers of cultural identity such as religion, language, region, caste, food, clothing, as well as gender, and sexuality in modern India. In my lectures, I will provide a historical and cultural background of the diverse regions that make India unique. We will also discuss the drastic changes which are taking place, resulting in a lot of conflict and uncertainty about the future.

Text Books for the Course

- Paz, Octavio (1998) *In Light of India*, Mariner Books
- Singh, Kushwant (1956). *Train to Pakistan*. Chatto & Windus

The books are made available at the [Bay Tree Bookstore](#) at UCSC. There will also be limited and timed access to the books at the library online. The rest of the readings will be available on Canvas.

Students will also be required to rent films online, though some films are available through UCSC media lab subscription services (NetFlix, amazon prime, etc), a subscription is not required for this course.

Course Duration

The course is from July 25th, 2022, to August 26th, 2022. The class will be asynchronous.

Grading

There will be multiple grading components in the course. Students will be graded for quizzes, midterms, and finals. There will also be grades for class participation and discussions.

Quizzes (20% of total grade)

Every week will end with a quiz. These quizzes are meant to examine the students' understanding and grasp of the course texts. The quizzes will be multiple choice and have 20 questions each.

Midterm (30% of the total grade)

The midterm exam will require students to answer long and short essay questions based on the first portion of the class.

Final (30% of the total grade)

The final examination will require the students to answer questions based on the full syllabus of the course.

Detailed requirements of the final exam, along with the grading rubrics, will be available on Canvas under the folder *Assignments*. The finals will be graded on a total of 30 points and amount to **30** percent of the final grade.

Discussion Threads (20% of total grade)

Students will be required to contribute to the discussion threads every week. The discussion threads will be maintained on the week's readings. All students are expected to contribute **at least two questions on the week's readings and provide one answer to a question raised by another student.**

Course Schedule

This schedule may be revised as the course goes on to accommodate guest speakers and current news articles, among other readings. Students are responsible for noting such changes and keeping track of events and readings in the current syllabus.

Week 1

July 25, 2022, to July 30, 2022

Orientation and Overview

Lecture 1

*Introduction of the themes and purpose of the course. Why Should We Study India?
Discussion of the texts and assignments.*

- Readings
 - Paz, Octavio, *In Light of India* pp. 3-33
- Video -Origins of India's Hindu Civilization (on canvas)

Lecture 2

Understanding the notion of Unity in Diversity of an Ancient Civilization: A Historical Perspective. Early Conceptions of the Cosmic and Social Order in Hinduism; The Hindu Construction of Reality.

- Readings
 - Metcalf and Metcalf, *A Concise History of Modern India* (Early India), pp. XXVI – XXXIII
 - Flood, Gavin, *History of Hinduism*.

Sultans and Mughals and Colonialism

Lecture 3

India: The History and Background of a Pluri-ethnic Nation-State, Advent of Islam and Interreligious Dialogue

- Readings
 - Paz, Octavio, *In Light of India*, pp. 37 -72
 - Voll, Johann Ohtsuka, Kazuo, *Sufism*
 - **(optional)** Metcalf and Metcalf, *A Concise History of Modern India* pp. 1- 55
- Videos
 - [Khwaja Mere Khwaja \(Jodha Akbar\)](#) — This is a dramatized depiction of whirling dervishes and a classic rendition of Sufi music

Lecture 4

What did the British colonization of India actually mean? What effects did colonialism have on peoples' lives?

- Readings:
 - Paz, Octavio, *In Light of India*, pp. 73 - 133
 - Metcalf, Thomas, *Ideologies of the Raj* “Introduction: Britain and India in the eighteenth century” pp. 1-27
 - Amartya Sen, “Illusions of empire: Amartya Sen on what British rule really did for India”
 - **(optional)** Metcalf and Metcalf, *A Concise History of Modern India* pp. 167- 230
- Films (Pick one)
 - Laagan — available on Netflix — During the British Raj, a farmer named Bhuvan accepts the challenge of Captain Andrew Russell to beat his team in a game of cricket and enable his village to not pay taxes for the next three years.
 - Gandhi by Richard Attenborough — available for rent on youtube — A lawyer, Mohandas Gandhi, returns to British India from South Africa. He begins a nationwide campaign of nonviolent resistance against British rule, pressuring Britain to liberate India.

Quiz 1 is due on Canvas (July 29th, 2022)

Week 2

August 01, 2022, to August 06, 2022

Religion and Social Change

Lecture 1

Religion and Politics in pre - Independence India

- Readings
 - Tharoor, Shashi, *Why I am a Hindu* (My Hinduism) pp. 1-25
 - Chakrabarty, Paulomi, “Gender, Women, and Partition: Literary representations, refugee women and partition studies”
 - Singh, Khushwant, *Train to Pakistan*, pp. 1- 75
 - Manto, Saadat Hasan, “Toba Tek Singh”
- Video:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qK3bW3yAWo> — On Hinduism & Hindutva | India Today Conclave 2019
- Films - Pick 1:
 - [Partition Partition](#) (2007) - Partition is a 2007 film directed by Vic Sarin, written by Patricia Finn and Vic Sarin, and starring Jimi Mistry and Kristin Kreuk. The film is set in 1947, based on the partition of Great India. Determined to leave the ravages of war behind, 38-year-old Gian Singh (Jimi Mistry) resigns from the British Indian Army for a quiet life. His world is soon thrown in turmoil when he finds himself responsible for the life of a 17-year-old Muslim girl separated from her family and traumatized by the conflict of the Partition of India. Resisting all the taboos of the religious divide, Gian finds himself slowly falling in love with the vulnerable Naseem (Kristin Kreuk) 2008 Genie Award for Best Achievement in Cinematography - Nominee
 - 1947 - Earth (A Film By Deepa Mehta) Available on Amazon Prime. Also at the UCSC library. The film is about the religious and civil war that broke out in India and Pakistan in the 1947 battle to gain independence from the British.

Lecture 2

Religion and Politics in Contemporary India

- Readings:
 - Singh, Khushwant, *Train to Pakistan*, pp. 77-181
 - Tharoor, Shashi, *Why I am a Hindu* (The Hindu Way) pp. 26-56
 - Vaishnav, Milan “Religious Nationalism and India’s Future”
- Videos
 - [Ramachandra Guha on the Makers of Modern India](#)
 - [Hindu Muslim Conflict in India](#)

Gender

Lecture 3

Gender and Religion in India

- Readings
 - Nanda, Serena, *Neither Man Nor Woman: The Hijras of India*, pp.1- 37
 - Pandey, Annapurna, “Women and Religion in the Indian Diaspora”
 - Krishnamurthy, Akhila “[Radhe Jaggi: Women who wear saris do not trade strength for femininity](#)”
 - Goel, Ina “India’s Third Gender Rises Again.”
- Videos
 - Al Jazeera (October 17, 2013). [India's 'third gender': A marginalized social class](#)
 - **(optional)** Film: Darmiyaan: In Between (1995) — available on Amazon Prime — The film is set in Bollywood in the 1940s and tells the story of an actress who discovers that her son is a hijra

Lecture 4

Caste and Gender

- Readings:
 - Paz, Octavio, *In Light of India*, pp. 135 - 206
 - International Dalit Solidarity Network, *Caste and Gender Justice: Delivering on the UN Global Goals for Dalit Women and Girls*.
 - Biju, Rachel, *The Position of Dalit Women in Indian Society*
- Video
 - [Writing with Fire 2021](#) (Available at the UCSC media library) In a cluttered news landscape dominated by men emerges India's only newspaper run by Dalit women. Chief Reporter Meera and her journalists break traditions redefining what it means to be powerful.

Quiz 2 is due on Canvas (August 05, 2022)

Week 3

August 08, 2022, to Aug 13, 2022

Tribes, Caste, and The State – The New Face of India

Lecture 1

Caste in India

- Readings:
 - Public Radio International, [*Caste in America \(Part 1\): Even with a Harvard pedigree, caste follows 'like a shadow'.*](#)
 - Public Radio International, [*Caste in America \(Part 2\): Love conquers caste for this couple, but Indian marriage traditions continue in US.*](#)
 - Public Radio International, [*Caste in America \(Part 3\): The US isn't safe from the trauma of caste bias.*](#)
- Documentary:
 - **(optional)** [*The Battle of Bhima Koregaon: An Unending Journey \(2017\)*](#) — History speaks about great wars fought, brave warriors, and clever kings and emperors. What history doesn't do justice to the wars, warriors, and leaders of the oppressed. This documentary is about the 500 Mahar soldiers (the untouchables) who offered to fight alongside their countrymen, against the colonizers. Rejected by the ruling class they joined forces with the colonizers and fought in the 'Bhima Koregaon Battle', defeating the Brahminical rule of the Peshwas. Just as history did, so do the media and ruling class today conveniently forget to acknowledge them. On the 1st of January, every year, 20 lakh (2 million) people gather at Bhima-Koregaon, Pune, Maharashtra to commemorate that battle

Lecture 2

Tribes and Indian National Identity: Location of Exclusion and Marginality

- Readings:
 - Xaxa, Virginus, “Tribes and Indian National Identity: Location of Exclusion and Marginality”
 - Pandey, Annapurna, “Kondhs’ Resistance Movement To Save Sacred Niyamgiri, Odisha”

- Videos
 - [Let The Tribal Peoples Voice Lead](#) - Virginius Xaxa
 - [Virginius Xaxa on Tribals in India](#)

Making of Modern India: Family and Social Change in India

Lecture 3

Gender and Family in Modern India

- Readings
 - Pandey, Annapurna “Microcredit: An Indian Experience”
 - Nanda, Serena “Arranging a Marriage in India”
 - Uberoi, Patricia “The diaspora comes home: disciplining desire in DDLJ” pp. 180-216
 - Shah, A.M., “Is the Joint Household Disintegrating?”
- Video
 - [Dadi’s Family \(2019\)](#) — Three generations of women in a village family in India.
 - **(optional)** [A Suitable Girl \(2017\)](#) — A Suitable Girl follows three young women in India struggling to maintain their identities and follow their dreams amid intense pressure to get married. Documenting the arranged marriage and matchmaking process in verite over four years, the film examines the women's complex relationship with marriage, family, and culture

Lecture 4

Gender and Family in Modern India continuing

- Readings:
 - Anupama Chopra, “Bollywood Gets Real, Taking On the Modern Indian Marriage”, New York Times, 2006.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2006/07/30/movies/30chop.html>
 - Arora, Priya “As Bollywood Evolves, Women Find Deeper Roles”
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/19/movies/women-in-bollywood-movies.html>
- Video:
 - [Kamala And Raji](#) (1991)--available on canvas--Produced and directed by the makers of Dadi's Family, this film is about Kamala and Raji, two women of the working poor who live in Ahmedabad, capital of the west Indian state of Gujarat. They share a common history since both have moved from a background of deprivation and political impotence to a measure of empowerment as representatives of a grassroots organization called SEWA, the Self Employed Women's Association.

Quiz 3 due on Canvas (August 12, 2022)

Last day to turn in midterm assignments -- Aug 12, 2022

Week 4

August 15, 2022, to Aug 20, 2022

Food Culture of India

Lecture 1

Food/Well-Being in India

- Readings
 - Appadurai, Arjun, “How to Make a National Cuisine: Cookbooks in Contemporary India”
 - Nandy, Ashis, “The Changing Popular Culture of Indian Food: Preliminary Notes”
 - Agarwal, Ritu, “Why India is a Nation of Foodies”
 - Appadurai, Arjun, [Gastro-Politics in Hindu South Asia](#)
- Films (pick one)
 - The Lunchbox (2013) — An unlikely mistake by a tiffin carrier service results in Ila's tiffin, which was made for her husband, being delivered to Saajan Fernandes. An unusual friendship soon develops between the two.
 - [Stanley Ka Dabba](#) (2011) — Schoolboy Stanley does not carry lunch, which is noticed by a teacher who forces kids to share their food with him. He soon warns Stanley that he must get a lunch box if he wants to attend school.

Lecture 2

Food and Indian Diaspora

- Readings
 - The Economic Times, “[Another Forgotten Food Culture to the Fore](#)”
 - Homegrown, “[Dalit Identity And Food: Memories Of Trauma On A Plate](#)”
 - [Waghmore, Suryakant, “Vegetarianism in India has more to do with caste hierarchy than love for animals”](#)
 - [Merchant, Shaan, “Indian Americans: The New Voices Bringing Diversity to Food Writing”](#)
- Video

- [Priya Krishna And Her Mom Explore 'Indian-ish' Food](#), June 22, 2021

Aging and Old Age Care in India

Lecture 3

The Process of Aging in Indian Religious traditions

- Readings
 - Tilak, Srinivas, *Religion and Aging in the Indian Tradition* (Growing Old) pp. 51 – 80
 - Annapurna Devi Pandey, Social Exclusion of the Elderly in India Pages 231-251
 - Dubey et al. “A Study of Elderly Living in Old Age Home and Within Family Set-up in Jammu”

Lecture 4

Elderly, Youth and Social Change in India

- Readings
 - Craig, Jeffrey, “Great Expectations: Youth in Contemporary India”, pp. 62 – 79
 - Lamb, Sarah, “Ways of Aging” pp. 500 – 516
 - Chatterji, Shoma, “Indian Cinema’s Tribute to Mellow Age”
 - Dubey, Rachana, “Bollywood Planning and Old-age Home for its Seniors”
 - Pandey, Annapurna, “Autumn of Their Lives: The Predicament of Aging Parents of Children Away in America”
 - Pandey, Annapurna, “Autumn in America: What Ails Aging Indian Parents Who Have Come Live With Their Children”
- Films (pick one)
 - *Maska* (2020) — available on Netflix — Determined to make it in showbiz, an aspiring actor considers turning his back on his family's café business
 - [Ramprasad Ki Tehrvi \(2020\)](#) - available on Netflix - *Ram Prasad ki Tehrvi* is a family dramedy set in a middle-class north Indian family of 6 children. Upon the father’s demise, a series of events unfold at the funeral which shows the interpersonal relationships in the family. Balancing traditions, obligations & family finances, the widowed mother realizes the intricacies of her husband’s philosophies of life and wants to inculcate & pass on those values to the world.

Quiz 4 due on Canvas (August 19, 2022)

Week 5

Aug 22, 2022 to Aug 26, 2022

Films in India and the Indian Diaspora

Lecture 1

Indian Films

- Readings
 - Hutchinson, Pamela, “[The birth of India's film industry: how the movies came to Mumbai](#)”
 - Rajadhyaksha, Ashish, “[The 'Bollywoodization' of the Indian cinema: Cultural Nationalism in a Global Arena.](#)”
 - Gupta, Chidananda Das “[Indian Cinema Today](#)”

Lecture 2

Indian Diaspora

- Readings
 - Mishra, Vijay [The diasporic imaginary: Theorizing the Indian diaspora](#)
 - Annapurna Pandey: [Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui' Marks a Paradigm Shift in the Acceptance of Transgender Lives in Popular Culture](#)
- Video
 - Watch “Chammak Challo” and “The Making of Chammak Challo” (on Canvas)
- Films (pick one)
 - The Namesake (2007) — available on Amazon Prime — Ashima and Ashoke, immigrant Bengali parents, try to adjust to life in America, while Gogol, their son, tries to find his identity and choose between the two worlds.
 - Chandigarh kare aashiqui (2021) revolves around a man who falls in love with a transgender woman. Manu, a bodybuilder from Chandigarh, India, falls in love with Maanvi, a Zumba teacher. All seems well until a revelation causes turmoil in their love story.

What is happening in India today? An overview

Lecture 3

Contemporary Issues

- Readings

- Abi-Habib, Maria and Yasir, Sameer, “As Modi Pushes Hindu Agenda, a Secular India Fights Back”
- Victor, Daniel, “[Why People Are Protesting in India](#)”
- BBC News, “[India's poorest 'fear hunger may kill us before coronavirus'](#)”

Lecture 4

Identity and Modernity — Rise of Hindutwa Nationalism

- Readings:
 - Pankaj Mishra, “[How Narendra Modi Seduced India with Envy and Hate](#)”
 - Pankaj Mishra: “[India Is Shooting Itself in the Foot in Kashmir](#)”
 - Bhowmick, Nilanjana, 'I Cannot Be Intimidated. I Cannot Be Bought.' [The Women Leading India’s Farmers’ Protests](#)
 - Byatnal, Amruta, “At India’s Farmers’ Protests, these Women are Reclaiming their Space”

Quiz 5 due on Canvas (August 26, 2022)

FINAL EXAM

Final Exam due on Canvas -- Aug 26, 2022

DRC Remote Accommodations

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me by email, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. I would also like us to discuss ways we can ensure your full participation in the course. I encourage all students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. Academic dishonesty diminishes the university as an institution and all members of the university community. It tarnishes the value of a UCSC degree. All members of the UCSC community have an explicit responsibility to foster an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. All members of the

university community are expected to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. All members of the community are expected to report observed instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty in order to ensure that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved at UCSC.

In the event a student is found in violation of the UCSC Academic Integrity policy, he or she may face both academic sanctions imposed by the instructor of record and disciplinary sanctions imposed either by the provost of his or her college or the Academic Tribunal convened to hear the case. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university and a permanent notation on a student's transcript.

For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the [Academic Integrity page](#) at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

Title IX

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion, intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.

The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. [Information about the Title IX Office](#), the [online reporting link](#), applicable campus resources, reporting responsibilities, the [UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#), and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at titleix.ucsc.edu.

The Title IX Office is actively responding to reports and requests for consultation. If you are not currently working with someone in the office and want to make a report/request a consult, you can expect the fastest response by using our [online reporting link](#).

For more information please visit the [Title IX Operations under Covid-19](#) page.