

## **ANTH 110P –01 India and Indian Diaspora Through Film**

### **Instructor**

Prof. Annapurna Pandey

### **Duration**

The course is from July 29th, 2024 to August 30th, 2024. The class will be asynchronous.

### **Office Hours:**

By appointment

### **Email**

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### **Teaching Assistants**

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### **Course Description:**

In mid-2023, India became the most populous country in the world, surprising China. India is a land of contrasts. It has been classified as an “aging country,” with its 138 million elderly population (aged 60 and above), also known as a young country with 65% of its population below 35. India’s diaspora is spread out throughout the globe with a complex history of its own. The Indian diaspora is one of the most vibrant and dynamic in the world, with 18 million living outside their homeland in 2020. There are about 4.2 million Indians in the US, and the community is known for its diversity in terms of language, religion, region, class, caste, gender, and sexuality.

Today, Indian Americans are a mosaic of recent arrivals and long-term residents. While most are immigrants, a rising share is born and raised in the United States. Many Indian immigrants have brought identities rooted in their ancestral homeland, while others have eschewed them in favor of a non-hyphenated “American” identity. And despite the overall professional, educational, and financial success many Indian Americans enjoy, this has not

inoculated them from the forces of discrimination, polarization, and contestation over questions of belonging and identity.

Students in this course view the complexity and diversity of the Indian Diaspora through themes such as family, caste, food, gender, politics, religion, sexuality, and immigration policies affecting the diaspora. How do the vastly diverse groups of Indian Americans perceive their own ethnic identity? How do they respond to the dual impulses of assimilation and integration? And how might their self-conception influence the composition of their social networks? We will explore these themes through readings and Bollywood films.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Understand the key concepts and discourses and identify formulaic storytelling elements involved in Bollywood cinema;
2. To be able to understand the complexity of the history and diversity of Indian cultures in the diaspora and the identity-making through Bollywood cinema;
3. be able to write effectively, connecting the film and the cultures, with attention to the story and textual details as well as the visual field;
4. Develop an appreciation of the cultural richness and diversity of India and the Indian diaspora, which will enable the students to appreciate their own culture reflexively and comparatively.

### **My Teaching Philosophy and Our Work Together**

1. I love this subject and am happy to work with you this term. All students have an innate learning capacity, regardless of age, academic background, and learning style. I am committed to facilitating an inclusive and welcoming learning environment where students can experience themselves as capable, insightful, and appreciated. Each person's life experience is an essential contribution to our classroom community. As a teacher, I assume responsibility for ensuring that each student in my classes has access to a variety of ways in which to demonstrate the knowledge of the subject they acquire during our time together. I promise to bring my passion for my subject to every class session. I ask that you, too, commit to doing your best work in our class.
2. I am here to help! Please talk to me if you need help with any aspect of this class. I know that some of the material may be difficult, and I also understand that things happen in life that can

make it hard to succeed in class. One of my primary purposes here is to support you, but I can't help you if I don't know what is happening. If you are having trouble, contact me as soon as possible. I will do my very best to help you do your very best.

## **Course Requirements**

### **Required books and Readings for the course:**

Books are available at the Bay Tree Bookstore on the UCSC campus. Articles for weekly readings will be available on Canvas.

- Gupta, Prachi (2023). They Called Us Exceptional: And Other Lies That Raised Us
  - Judith M. Brown (2007) Global South Asians: Introducing the Modern Diaspora
- On canvas, refer to [Ways of Reading a Film \(pdf\)](#). [Download Ways of Reading a Film \(pdf\)](#). Videos are available on YouTube, Netflix, Amazon Prime, and the McHenry Library Reserves. Take notes while viewing videos to use in written assignments.

## **Grading**

The course will have multiple grading components—students' participation and presentation, besides quizzes, discussion forums, midterms, and finals.

- **Quizzes (20% of the grade):** Every week, students will be expected to take a quiz. These quizzes are meant to examine the student's understanding and grasp of the course texts. The quizzes will be multiple choice and have 10- 20 questions each.
- **Discussion Threads: (20% of the grade):** Engage with the readings assigned for the week and share your reflections. Pick three ideas from those readings that you would associate with the videos/films you watched for the week. End your reading response with one or two questions about the readings or films. You will upload the reading responses to the discussion thread on or before every Thursday. Additionally, you will reply to at least two other people's reading responses and address the question(s) they raised. The deadline for the reply to others' responses is Friday.
- **Midterms (30% of the grade):** Students will write an individual essay. For the essay, you will pick a theme discussed in the course, a film, or a book, or a research-based article that depicts India and Indian diaspora or culture of the Indian diaspora, and analyze the depiction in the context of the theme tied to the readings covered in the course.

The midterm will be graded on a total of 25 points and will amount to **30%** of the final grade. **The Midterm is due in Week 3.**

- **The Final Exam (30% of the grade): The final examination will require the students to answer questions based on the full course syllabus. The final is due at the end of Week 5.**

Detailed discussion forum requirements, Midterm, Research paper, and the grading rubric will be available on Canvas. All assignments must be handed in on Canvas unless otherwise indicated. Just so you know, email submissions won't be accepted.

- Readings and Assignments are due before class unless otherwise indicated.
- Late assignments will lose 2 points for each overdue day.
- Only if previously agreed upon assignments are over one week late will they be accepted.
- Please email me with questions about course materials and/or assignments. You are encouraged to meet with me to discuss your ideas for these papers and the final project.

NOTE: Plagiarism will be treated as a serious offense and penalized. All references must be fully cited. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or unsure of how to cite your sources appropriately, please consult with the instructor for clarification.

TIPS FOR succeeding IN THIS COURSE:

1. Complete the assigned readings and films, and take good notes to help you complete the quizzes and assignments.
2. If you need help with any aspect of this class, please make an appointment to talk to me as soon as possible to get help.
3. Set up your Canvas notifications correctly: I send messages to the entire class using the “Announcements” feature and post the assignments.
4. Add a thumbnail photo to your Canvas profile. While it might seem like a small detail, it makes a massive difference in familiarizing ourselves in class.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Week 1**

*Part I: Understanding Indian Culture and Indian Diaspora through Films as a Text*

*Who are the Indian Diaspora? Anthropological lens to understand the Indian Diaspora “Bollywood” in local and global contexts. You will be introduced to Indian cultures, the Diaspora, and the basic film theory concepts for understanding Indian cinema.*

### **Topic: India and Indian Diaspora: An overview**

Introduction of the themes and purpose of the course. How do you study India and the Indian diaspora and the significance of Bollywood Cinema? Discussion of the texts and assignments.

Video on Bollywood: [“Made in BollywoodLinks to an external site.”](#)

#### Required Readings:

- Choudhury (2019), “Go Back Where You’re From? ‘I’m Still Being Told That’”
- Cohen (2023), “Russia’s War Could Make It India’s World”
- Smith (2013), “The Birth of India's Film Industry: How the Movies Came to Mumbai”  
Published during the centenary celebration of Indian cinema, this short article provides a historical overview of the evolution of films and filmmaking in the country.
- Rao (2002), “How to Read a Hindi Film”

#### Films (pick one):

- Om Shanti Om (2007) — available on Netflix — Om, a junior film artist, is smitten by Shantipriya, a renowned actress, but is killed while trying to save her from a fire accident. Thirty years later, he is reborn and sets out to avenge her death.
  - Bombay Talkies (2013) — available on Netflix — An anthology of four short stories describing how films influence people's lives from various strata of society. It consists of four short films directed by [Karan JoharLinks to an external site.](#), [Dibakar BanerjeeLinks to an external site.](#), [Zoya AkhtarLinks to an external site.](#), and [Anurag KashyapLinks to an external site.](#). The film was released on 3 May 2013, coinciding with and celebrating the 100th year of [Indian cinemaLinks to an external site.](#) and the beginning of a new era in modern cinema. It screened at the [2013 Cannes Film FestivalLinks to an external site.](#) on May 17, 2013.
  - Luck by Chance (2009) — available on Netflix — An aspiring actor, Vikram, wishes to make it big in Bollywood. He gets to play the male lead in a film, but it affects his relationship with his girlfriend, Sona, a struggling actress.
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## **Topic: Understanding Diversities in the Indian Diaspora: Themes, Issues, and Aspirations of the Indians spreading**

### Required Readings:

- Judith M. Brown (2007) Global South Asians: Introducing the Modern Diaspora, pp.1 - 28 (the assigned book)
- Rajadhyaksha (2010), "The 'Bollywoodization' of the Indian Cinema"
- Gupta, Chidananda Das (1969). Indian Cinema Today. Film Quarterly 22, no. 4.
- Mishra, Vijay (1996). "The diasporic imaginary: Theorizing the Indian diaspora"

## **Topic: Indian Diaspora: The Colonial and the Post-Colonial Migrations**

### Required Readings:

- Judith M. Brown (2007) Global South Asians: Introducing the Modern Diaspora pp.29 - 58 (the assigned book)
- Rachel Dwyer, Bollywood's India: Hindi Cinema as a Guide to Modern India, pp.381-398
- Ashis Nandy, "The Popular Hindi Film: Ideology and First Principles."

### Videos:

- Watch "Chammak Challo" and "The Making of Chammak Challo" (videos on YouTube)
- [Lyrical: Chammak Challo](#) [Links to an external site.](#)
- [The Making of Chammak Challo](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

### Film: (Choose one)

- Gandhi (film) 1982. Available at the Mac Henry Library
- Bhaji on the Beach (film) 1993, directed by Gurinder Chadha. Available at the Mac Henry Library
- Mississippi Masala ( 1991) An ethnic Indian family is expelled from Idi Amin's Uganda in 1972 and lives in Mississippi 17 years later. The dad sues Uganda to get his property back. The grown daughter falls in love with a Black man.
- My Son the Fanatic (film) is a 1997 British [comedy-drama](#) [Links to an external site.](#) directed by [Udayan Prasad](#) [Links to an external site.](#). Hanif Kureishi wrote it to adapt his short story [My Son the Fanatic](#) [Links to an external site.](#). Available at the Mc Henry Library

**Quiz 1 is due on Canvas**

**Week 2**

## **Topic: Indian Diaspora: Creating New Homes And Communities**

### Required Readings:

- Judith M. Brown (2007) *Global South Asians: Introducing the Modern Diaspora* pp.59 - 111 (the assigned book)
- Naseem Lallmahomed-Aumeerally, “A reading of Bollywood cinema as a site of melancholia for Indo-Mauritian Muslim female youth” (on canvas)

## **Topic: Indian Diaspora: Multiple Ways of Connecting with the Homeland**

### Required Readings:

- Judith M. Brown (2007) *Global South Asians: Introducing the Modern Diaspora* pp.112 - 148 (the assigned book)
- Jayaram, N. Ed. *Diversities In The Indian Diaspora*, pp. 1- 22 (on canvas).
- *Hindi Cinema and a Portrait of Overseas Indians*

### Films (choose one):

- *The Namesake* (2007) — available on Amazon Prime — Ashima and Ashoke, immigrant Bengali parents, try to adjust to life in America. Gogol, their son, tries to find his identity and choose between the two worlds.
- *Bend It Like Beckham* (2002) – available on Hulu – A girl bends the rules to reach her goal in professional soccer. But her traditional parents refuse even to consider it and want her to hang up her football boots, find a nice boy, and learn to cook.
- *Chatterjee vs Norway* (2023) - available on Netflix - *Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway* is based on a true story. Debika Chatterjee (Rani Mukerji) suffers the consequences of losing her children to the state - a two-year-old boy and a five-month-old girl. The film is primarily about a clash of cultures - the sort that immigrants often encounter in their adopted countries - and its unfortunate fallout.

## *Part II: Cultural Identity and Social Change in India and the Indian diaspora through the Bollywood lens*

## **Topic: Gender and Identity in the Diaspora**

### Required Readings:

- **Gupta, Prachi (2023). *They Called Us Exceptional Chapters*** (required reading), up to chapters. 6, Prologue- p.65.

- Aparna Rayaprol, Understanding Gender Diversities in the Indian Diaspora, pp. 193- 206 (on canvas).
- Patricia Uberoi, “The diaspora comes home: disciplining desire in DDLJ” in Freedom and Destiny: Gender, Family and Popular Culture (Delhi: Oxford, 2006) pp 180-216 (on canvas)

**Topic: Dutiful Mothers and Rebellious Daughters and Identity Construction in the Diaspora**

Required Readings:

- Vijay Agnew, Identity Construction in the Diaspora, PP. 207 - 224 (on canvas).
- Annapurna Pandey, Religion and Gender in the Indian Diaspora (on canvas)
- Anupama Chopra, “Bollywood Gets Real, Taking On the Modern Indian Marriage”, New York Times, 2006.
- Case Studies: Desi Rainbow Parents & Allies - <https://www.desirainbow.org/Links to an external site.>
- Parivar - <https://www.parivarbayarea.org/Links to an external site.>

Films (pick one):

- Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995) – available on Amazon Prime – The True-Hearted Will Win the Bride, dir. Aditya Chopra
- Darmiyaan: In Between (1995) — available on Amazon Prime — The film is set in Bollywood in the 1940s and tells the story of an actress discovering that her son is a eunuch.
- Lust Stories (2018) - available on Netflix - [Hindi-languageLinks to an external site. anthology filmLinks to an external site.](#), consisting of four [short filmLinks to an external site.](#) segments directed by [Anurag KashyapLinks to an external site.](#), [Zoya AkhtarLinks to an external site.](#), [Dibakar BanerjeeLinks to an external site.](#), and [Karan JoharLinks to an external site.](#) and based on the concept of the 2013 anthology film [Bombay TalkiesLinks to an external site.](#). The film was nominated for two awards at the [47th International Emmy AwardsLinks to an external site.](#); [Best TV Movie or MiniseriesLinks to an external site.](#) and [Best ActressLinks to an external site.](#) for Apte.

**Quiz 2 is due on Canvas**

**Week 3**

**Topic: Issues of Caste and its antecedents in the Indian Diaspora in the USA**



### Required Readings:

- Ganesh, Kamala (2011). Diaspora: A Mirror to Indian Diversity? Caste, Brahmanism and the New Diaspora, PP. 173 - 190 (on canvas).
- Vivek Kumar (2021). Different Shades of Caste among the Indian Diaspora in the US (on canvas).
- Avatans Kumar (2023) Is 'Caste' Being Weaponized Against The Indian Diaspora? (on canvas).
- [Nisha, "Oscar-nominated Writing With Fire misses path to Dalit liberation"Links to an external site.](#)

### Films (pick one):

- Kapoor & Sons – available on Netflix – Dir. Shakun Batra, (2016)
- Badhai Ho (2018)
- White Tiger (2021)
- Pagglait (2021)
- Chak De India (2007) — available on Amazon Prime

### **Topic: Contributions of Indian American writers in the making of the Indian Diaspora**

### Required Reading:

- Judith M. Brown (2007) Global South Asians: Introducing the Modern Diaspora pp.149 - 180 (the assigned book)
- Authors Beyond the Written Word: Creative Pursuits and the Question of How to Making a Living - American Kahani
- Neha Patel (2021) What Is Indian American Literature?
- Rachel Dwyer, “Yeh Shaadi Nahin Ho Sakti!: Romance and Marriage in Contemporary Hindi Cinema” (on canvas)
- Mythili Rajiva (2010) In Papaji's House, Feminist Media Studies, 10:2, 213-228 (on canvas)

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### *Part III: Indian Immigrants, Markers of Identity, Intergenerational Relationship*

### Required Readings:

- **Gupta, Prachi (2023), “They Called Us Exceptional,” (assigned book) Chap.7- 11**
- Rajinder Dudrah, "Queer as Desis: Secret Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Bollywood Films in Diasporic Urban Ethnoscapes" (pp. 288 – 307).

- Sangita Gopal, *Conjugations: Marriage and Form in New Bollywood Cinema* (pp. 138-141 and 146-148)

**Topic: Gender Norms, Social Change and Memoir**

Required Readings:

- Rachel Dwyer, “Zara Hatke (‘Somewhat Different’)” (pp. 197-201)
- Jyotika Viridi *The Cinematic Imagination: Indian Popular Films as Social History* Rutgers
- Viridi (2003), “The Idealized Woman,” pp. 60-86 [Download Viridi \(2003\), “The Idealized Woman,” pp. 60-86](#)
- Viridi (2003), “Heroines, Romance, and Social History,” pp. 121–144
- [Arora, Priya “As Bollywood Evolves, Women Find Deeper Roles”](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

Films (pick one):

- *Queen* (2013) — available on Netflix — Rani is devastated after her fiance leaves her just before the wedding. Undeterred, she decides to go on their honeymoon alone, where she gets pulled out of her comfort zone and rediscovers herself.
- *Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare* (2019) -available on Netflix - tells the story of two women who are on parallel paths of self-discovery.
- *Tribhanga* (2020) – available on Netflix – Anuradha (Kajol), an actress and dancer, who must face the demons of her past when her estranged mother, Nayantara (Tanvi Azmi), ends up in the hospital. Nayantara, a highly accomplished writer, gets to tell her side of the story in flashbacks through conversations with a disciple who is recording material for a biography.
- *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan* (2020)
- *Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga* (2019)
- *Aligarh* (2016)
- *Margarita With A Straw* (2014)

\*Last day to email your professor your research project proposal\*

**Quiz 3 due on Canvas**

**Week 4**

***Food as a marker of Identity in India and Indian Diaspora***

**Topic: Food and Identity**

Required Readings:

- Why India is a nation of foodies - BBC News 21 June 2016
- Gupta, Prachi (2023). They Called Us Exceptional Chapters( required reading), up to chapters. 7-10, pp. 66 - 105
- [Arjun Appadurai, Gastro-Politics in Hindu South Asia, American EthnologistLinks to an external site.](#), 8, No. 3, Symbolism and Cognition (Aug. 1981), pp. 494-511
- Ashis Nandy, The Changing Popular Culture of Indian Food (on canvas)

## Week 4

### Topic: Food and Indian Diaspora

#### Required Readings:

- Gupta, Prachi (2023). They Called Us Exceptional Chapters 11 - 16, pp. 106 - 160
- [The Curry Trap: How a Continent's Worth of Food Got Mashed Into One WordLinks to an external site.](#)
- Indian Diaspora Gastronomy: On the Changing Use of Herbs and Spices Among Southern California's Indian Immigrant Women ( on canvas)
- Jayanta Sengupta, Indian Food In the USA Adapting to culinary eclecticism ( on canvas)

#### Videos:

- [Priya Krishna And Her Mom Explore 'Indian-ish' FoodLinks to an external site.](#)
- [Home is Food for the Indian Diaspora | Depinder Chhibber | TEDxHRCollegeLinks to an external site.](#)

#### Films (pick anyone):

- [The Lunchbox \(2013\)Links to an external site.](#) — available on Netflix — 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.
- Bawarchi (1972) Sharma's household (Shanti Nivas) gets a new chef named Raghu, who cooks well and finds his love.
- Cheeni Kum (2007) An arrogant, acidic 64-year-old chef of London's top Indian restaurant meets a simple 34-year-old unmarried woman visiting London.
- Salt n' Pepper ( 2011) *is the story of a few foodies whose fondness of food bonds them together.*



## **Topic: Identity and Citizenship – Recent Indian Immigrants to the US: Struggles and Challenges**

H1-B Visa holders - Issues of Immigration and Identity

Required Readings:

- [Personal Histories: How the Coronavirus Upended the Lives of Indian H-1B Visa Holders - American Kahani](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- [The Unbearable Burden Being on a Dependent Visa in America - American Kahani](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- [Beyond Biometrics: The Struggle for H-4 Dependent Visa Renewals During the Pandemic - American Kahani](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- [Spouses of a Lesser God: How the Biden Administration is Failing Those With H-4 Employment Authorization - American Kahani](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- [Living with the Enemy: Indian Women on H-4 Dependent Visa are Defenseless Targets of Domestic Violence - American Kahani](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- [Depression Visa: The Story of One Woman Whose Life was Upended by H-4 Dependent Visa and an Abusive Spouse on H1-B](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- [Vidyut Latay’s Documentary ‘Alien’ Lays Bare the Systemic Exploitation of Indian Skilled Professionals by American Corporations](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Film to watch:

- Alien (2023) - This film transforms the American understanding of the hardships of Indian high-skilled migrants and their dependents by identifying the fraught U.S. immigration system of the United States as the exploitation of Indian migrant labor by American corporations.

## **Topic: Youth Identity struggle in the Diaspora**

Required Readings:

- Gupta, Prachi (2023). They Called Us Exceptional Chapters(required reading), chapters. 17 - 20, pp.161 - 200
- [Pandey, Annapurna \(2023\). Vidyut Latay’s Documentary ‘Alien’ Lays Bare the Systemic Exploitation of Indian Skilled Professionals by American Corporations](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- [New LawsUIT Tries To Save Immigrant Children From ‘Aging Out’](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- [Children of a Lesser God: Specter of Going ‘Out of Status’ Haunts Dependents on H-4 Visa Turning 21 - American Kahani](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

- [Young Indian Americans, aged out of parents' visas, appeal for a path to citizenshipLinks to an external site.](#)
- [This Indian American STEM Advocate Ages out of H4 Visa to Face Uncertainties in US that She Calls HomeLinks to an external site.](#)

Film to watch:

- *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*: Directed by Arjun Varain Singh. With Vijay Maurya, Ananya Panday, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Jagdale. Ahana, Neil, and Imaad are three friends. Three best friends juggle life as 20-somethings in Mumbai, where romance, ambition, and heartbreak collide with the addictive draw of social media. Available on Netflix.

**Quiz 4 is due on Canvas**

**Week 5**

**Topic: Second-Generation Indian Immigrants, Trials and Tribulations**

What goes behind the Success Stories of the Indian Americans?

Required Readings:

- Gupta, Prachi (2023). *They Called Us Exceptional* Chapters(required reading), chapters. 21 - 28, pp. 201 - 268 ( finish the book).
- The silent mental health crisis among South Asian immigrants in the US and UK is crying to be addressed (on canvas)
- [What are young Indians saying about mental health? A content analysis of blogs on the It's Ok To Talk websiteLinks to an external site.](#)
- [South Asians & Mental HealthLinks to an external site.](#)
- [Illustrative Cases of Domestic Violence and its Repercussion on the Second Generation Indian AmericansLinks to an external site.](#)

Video: [Breaking The Silence: Desi Mental IllnessLinks to an external site.](#)

**Topic: Intergenerational relationship among the Indian Immigrants**

Required Readings:

- [My Mom is a Blonde With Blue Eyes: Identity Crisis and Other Struggles of Indian Children Raised in White American FamiliesLinks to an external site.](#)
- Please bring any other story related to the issue of the adoption of Indian children in the West.

Film (pick one):

- Mimi ( 2021)
- Lust Stories ( 2018)
- Lion ( 2016)

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**Topic: The Process of Aging and Social Change in Indian Diaspora**

Required Readings:

- Embodied Aging Everyday Body Practices and Later Life Identities Among the South Asian Indian Gujarati Diaspora in Canada ( on canvas)
- [Indian Cinema's Tribute to Mellow AgeLinks to an external site.](#)
- [A fire, two deaths and the business of elder care in IndiaLinks to an external site.](#)
- Annapurna Devi Pandey, Getting Old in North America: The Dilemmas of Diasporic Indians ( book chapter on canvas)[Links to an external site.](#)

Films (choose one):

- Astu (2013) — available on Amazon Prime — Dr Chakrapani Shastri, a retired Sanskrit professor suffering from Alzheimer's disease sees an elephant on the road and follows it across the city, thus panicking his daughter.
- 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, showing the family's interpersonal relationships. 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.
- Bela Seshe (2015)is the story of the separation of a couple on the verge of celebrating their 50th marriage anniversary.
- Sharmaji Namkeen (2022) A 58-year-old widower's passion for cooking helps him get over retirement blues and opens the doors to new, fulfilling experiences and friendships.

**Topic: Contemporary Issues in the Indian Diaspora**

Required Readings:

- [Is It Now Time to Go Caste-less in Seattle?Links to an external site.](#)

- The Divided Landscape of Indian American Politics ( ON CANVAS)

Films to watch:

- Origin ( 2023). **American biographical drama film written and directed by Ava DuVernay.** It is based on the book Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson, which describes racism in the United States as an aspect of a caste system.
- [Firaaq \(2008\)Links to an external site.](#) - Following the violent 2002 riots in Gujarat, people who were victims, perpetrators, and silent observers during the chaos found themselves deeply affected in a way that changed their lives forever.
- [PK \( 2014\)Links to an external site.](#) - PK is a 2014 Indian satirical comedy-drama film directed by Rajkumar Hirani and written by Hirani and Abhijat Joshi
- Shikara is a 2020 Indian film produced and directed by [Vidhu Vinod ChopraLinks to an external site.](#). The film is based on the love story of a [Kashmiri HinduLinks to an external site.](#) couple at the peak of [insurgencyLinks to an external site.](#) in [Jammu and KashmirLinks to an external site.](#) during the 1990s and the subsequent [exodus of Kashmiri HindusLinks to an external site.](#) from the [Kashmir ValleyLinks to an external site.](#).

**Quiz 5 is due on Canvas**

The final exam is due on Aug 28th by 11 am.

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