



## Lahore University of Management Sciences

### ENGL 2713 – Literature of Conflict Fall 2016-2017

Instructor	Furrukh Khan
Room No.	130 – SS Wing (Ground Floor)
Office Hours	TBA
Email	furrukh@lums.edu.pk
Telephone	
Secretary/TA	
TA Office Hours	
Course URL (if any)	

COURSE BASICS				
Credit Hours				
Lecture(s)	2 lectures per week		Duration	1hr 50mins
Recitation/Lab (per week)	Nbr of Lec(s) Per Week		Duration	
Tutorial (per week)	Nbr of Lec(s) Per Week		Duration	

COURSE DESCRIPTION
<p>This course will study the contact and collision of cultures during the Partition of India in 1947. It is an individual and collective seminal experience which continues to exert tremendous influence on the modern history of this region. The discourse inspired by Partition continues to shape and perpetuate a private and a public remembering and recreation of the ‘Other.’</p> <p>The bitterness and pain which is reflected in Partition literature also raises other fundamental questions such as the fragmentary nature of individual’s narratives which often undercut the State’s linear meta-narrative. Other questions regarding the issues of memory, the validity of eye-witnesses and links between language and violence will also explicated. We hope to discuss different explanations and beliefs about violence, and how, according to some, it is justified in a situation when one’s religion or ‘honor’ is in danger. Attempts would be undertaken to study the differences, if any, in the cases of rural and urban hostility between communities and dislocation against the popularly held beliefs that violence and hatred always came from the ‘outside’.</p> <p>This course will introduce students to a wide variety of critical issues and debates within the context of Partition. Seminars will cover a range of topics that include various theories about what took place, with a particular focus on the notions of religious, personal and national identities as well as gender and feminist discourses. It is expected that this course will provide students with an opportunity to explore a rich selection of writings from different cultural and academic contexts, and ultimately to engage critically with resultant issues, such as connections between women and the idea of a community/nation, reasoning (if it can ever be understood) behind acts of horrendous brutality, and the politics of dis-location.</p> <p>Students will be expected to carry out fieldwork which would include interviewing at least three survivors of the</p>



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Partition. They will be expected to present their findings in their seminar presentation.

Along with the suggested texts in this course, we hope to focus on the cinematic portrayal of Partition.

### GOALS

Theoretical works regarding the post-colonial 'anxiety' would be used to form the basic structure to develop a greater and polemical understanding of the stories of Partition. Additional readings of cultural and literary critics such as Veena Das, Susie Tharu, Ritu Menon and Aijaz Ahmed, in conjunction with the required readings should result in bringing together two distinctively creative and theoretical forms of literary writings to allow student to fully appreciate the hybridized situations and identities in South Asian Literature.

The questions of violence and dis-location form the basis of most of the literary work around this event. As Partition unfolded, this course aims to delve into the tumultuous chaos and momentous loss of life which was the cost of this 'independence.' As with most of the other post-colonial nations, we will also examine the resultant emotions expressed by the authors under study, and how these feelings continue to dominate the present climate of distrust and barely concealed hostilities between the two countries.

In exploring some of complex processes that have shaped our individual and national identities, this course does not attempt to provide a *comprehensive* or *total* history, rather it focuses on the central role of imperialism and migration in moulding social structures, cultural patterns, and a sense of who we are. This course does not provide a simple chronological narrative; rather, it examines different ways of thinking critically about the past and the present.

### LECTURES, TUTORIALS & ATTENDANCE POLICY

Depending on the class size, groups will be formed and each will do a 7-10 minutes presentation followed by questions by the class and the instructor. Students will have to hand in a written report a day before their presentation.

There will be a 4-5 minute response paper at the start of every class. The questions that will be asked will be on the reading that students are expected to have done for that day.

### GRADING

1. Group Presentation	15%
2. Mid -Term Exam	30%
3. Response Papers	10%
4. Class Participation	10%
5. Final Exam	35%

***This course will have 28 sessions (two of 110 mins) every week.***

### COURSE OVERVIEW

#### **Silenced His/(Her) stories of Partition (6 Lessons)**

The modern history of the Sub-continent has long have had an elitist perspective which have focused on the 'official' version of how Partition has been explained. In this module, we aim to question the prevailing viewpoint and in the process, come up with an alternative account/s of how the historiography of Partition needs to be pursued.



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1. C.H.Phillips & M.D. Wainwright. The Partition of India: Policies and Perspectives, 1935-1947. 'Introduction'
2. Zaidi, Hassan Jafar. A Brief Introduction to Zahid Choudhary's

Political History of Pakistan.

3. Ahmed, Ishtiaq. The 1947 Partition of India: A Paradigm for Pathological Politics in India and Pakistan
4. Asim Roy. The High Politics of India's Partition: The Revisionist Perspective.
5. Ayesha Jalal. Secularists, Subalterns and the Stigma of 'Communalism': Partition Historiography Revisited.
6. Ritu Menon & Kamla Bhasin. Three Perspectives on the Recovery Operation in Post-Partition India.

### **Partition and the Literary Imagination. (9 Lessons)**

This module will examine some of the fact inspired fiction of Partition. The short stories examine a variety of issues, which include the reasons for the brutality displayed by characters belonging to different religions. We will also examine the effects of violence on individual levels.

(I am still in the process of final selection of critical reading in addition to the texts mentioned below).

1. Ashfaq Ahmed. *The Shepherd*.

Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi. *Parmeshwar Singh*

2. Rajnder Singh Bedi. *Lajwanti*.
3. Saadat Hassan Manto. *Toba Tek Singh* and *Khol Do*.
4. Intezzar Hussain. *The City of Sorrow*.
5. Bhalla, Alok. Partition, Exile, and Memories of a Lost Home.
6. Qudrutullah Shahaab. *Ya Khuda*.

Ruth Seifert. The Second Front: The Logic of Sexual Violence in Wars.

7-8. Collection of short stories from Anthologies.

9. Kabir, Ananya Jahanara. Gender, Memory, Trauma: Women's Novels on the Partition of India.

### **The Body in Pain: Theorizing Violence (6 Lessons)**

This module aims to introduce students to a variety of theoretical writings about notions of remembering, women's bodies as markers of cultural and national identity, and a study of violence. This section will focus on the perspectives of selectively 'omitted' individuals, particularly women from the national discourses.

1. Mandelbaum, David. Hindu-Moslem Conflict in India
2. Gyanendra Pandey. Community and Violence: Recalling Partition.
2. Veena Das. Violence, Poisonous Knowledge, and Subjectivity.
3. Urvashi Butalia. Community, State and Gender: Some Reflections on the

Partition of India.

4. Susie Tharu. Rendering Account of the Nation: Partition Narratives and Other Genres of the Passive Revolution.
5. Ritu Menon and Kamla Bhasin. Partition History, Women's Histories.
6. Brubaker, Rogers and David Laitin. Ethnic and Nationalist Violence.

### **Media and Partition (7 Lessons)**



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This module will focus on dramatic representations of Partition. It is hoped that the discussion after these screenings would lead to a better understanding of the complexity of the issues involved during the Partition. Students will be expected to focus on the similarities and differences in representation of the 'other' in textual and visual mediums.

(The readings on critical film theory have been ordered and I will make the final selection once these books have arrived).

1. Toba Tek Singh.
2. Garam Hawa.
3. Tamas.
4. Train to Pakistan.
5. A Division of Hearts.
6. Khamosh Paani
7. Stories of the Broken Self