

INTL 190 – The Partition of British India

Spring 2013

Prashant Bharadwaj

Class time: Wednesdays 5pm-7:50pm

Office hours (in ECON 318): Wednesday 10:45-11:45am, also by appointment

Grading policy:

Class participation & attendance: 25%

In class presentation: 25%

Final paper: 50%

Course description: This course will attempt to provide an understanding of the partition of British India in August 1947 from the perspective of economics, demography, history, literature and film. Through these different perspectives, the course will provide a broad understanding of some of the facts about this momentous event in world and South Asian history and also address how these facts are remembered and interpreted in popular culture through literature and film.

How the class works: This is a 2hr 50min class. I will lecture for the first hour of each class, the next 40 mins or so will typically involve a film or documentary. The remaining class time is for in-class presentations, discussion and class participation.

In class presentation: The in class presentation is intended as a way to ensure that everyone participates in class. In class presentations can be considered to be “leading” a class discussion or making a presentation of a topic of interest related to the Partition. The discussion should relate to either the week’s reading, film or lecture topic. In Week 1, I will draw lots to assign presentation dates.

Course outline:

Week 1

Lecture: Introduction & background on the Partition

Film: BBC Documentary on Partition

Week 2

Lecture: Partitions in World History

Film: Garam Hawa (Scorching Winds)

Reading: Half of “Train to Pakistan”, Aftermath Chp 4

Week 3

Lecture: Empirical works on Partition

Film: Garam Hawa (Scorching Winds)

Reading: Rest of Train to Pakistan, Aftermath chp 5

Week 4

Guest Lecture: *The birth of Bangladesh and subsequent foreign policy*

Syed M. Ali, Former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh

Reading: Aftermath Chp 6

Week 5

Lecture: Economic impact of civil conflicts

Film: 1947: Earth

Reading: Half of "Cracking India", Aftermath Chp 8

Week 6

Lecture: Hindu-Muslim violence in India

Film: 1947: Earth

Reading: Rest of "Cracking India"

Week 7

Lecture: Women during Partition

Film: *Khamosh Pani* (Silent Waters)

Reading: First third of "Midnight's Children"

Week 8

Lecture: Colonial Overhang in India

Film: Midnight's Children

Reading: second third of "Midnight's Children"

Week 9

Lecture: Muhajirs in Pakistan; recent events in Bangladesh

Film: Midnight's Children

Reading: final third of "Midnight's Children", Aftermath Chp 7

Week 10

Lecture: Course wrap up, loose ends, Aftermath Chp 9