

**Department of Sociology  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
South Asian University - New Delhi**

**Diaspora and Transnationalism**

*(Optional Course for MA)*

**Total Credits: 4**

**Objectives of the Course**

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.

**Course Structure:**

**UNIT-1: Migration Studies**

This unit puts great emphasis on some of the key concepts, theories and processes related to migration studies. The unit will address the following issues: Understanding of Migration; defining migration; Key concepts and typology of migration; Patterns of Migration, Theorizing Migration: New classical approaches; Marxist approaches; Globalization approaches; Migration and developmental approaches: Post-modern approaches, Process of Migration: Historical and contemporary migration processes

including brief history of South Asian migration; Networks and ethnic enclaves, Melting pot or Salad Bowl; Governance, citizenship, assimilation and acculturation debates, globalization and societies in transition.

Ranjan, S. and Percot, M. (eds), *Dynamics of Indian Migration: Historical and Current Perspectives*, New Delhi: Routledge, 2011.

Portes, Alejandro and Josh DeWind (eds). 2007. *Rethinking Migration: New Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives*. Berghahn Books.

Vertovec, S. 2003. 'International Perspectives on Transnational Migration: An Introduction.' In, *International Migration Review*. 37(3): 565-575.

Glick Schiller, N., Basch, L., Szanton Blanc, C. 1995. 'From Immigrant to Transmigrant: Theorizing Transnational Migration,' *Anthropological Quarterly*. 68(1): 48-63 (CR).

Claire Alexander and Brian Alleyne, 'Framing Difference: Racial and Ethnic Studies in Twenty-first Century Britain, In *Ethnic and Racial Studies* Vol. 25 No. 4 July 2002. 541-551.

McLeod, W.H. 'The First Forty Years of Sikh Migration,' in Barrier, N.G., and Verne A. Dusenberry, eds. *The Sikh Diaspora: Migration and the Experience Beyond Punjab*. Delhi: Chanakya Publications, 1989, 29-48.

Leonard, Karen. 'Punjabi Farmers and California's Alien Land Law.' *Agricultural History* 59, no. 4 (Oct., 1985): 549-62

Appadurai, A. 1990, 'Disjunction and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy.' In, *Theory, Culture and Society*, vol. 7, No. 2-3.

Castles, S and Miller, M. 1998, *The Age of Migration*, London: Macmillan

Gardner, K. 1995, *Global Migrants, Local Lives: Travel and Transformation in Rural Bangladesh*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Siddiqui, T. 2001, *Transcending Boundaries: Labour Migration of Women from Bangladesh*, Dhaka: The University Press.

## **Unit-2: Diaspora Studies**

This unit explores the diaspora issues in the interactive zone of various social science and humanities disciplines such as history, sociology, social anthropology and cultural studies. It includes the historical context of South Asian diaspora, civilizational heritage of diasporic communities, continuities and transformations in culture, economy and political life as well as the processes and dynamics of communication and linkages between South Asia and the diaspora. The South Asian diaspora today constitutes an important, and in some respects

unique force in world culture. The unit will address the following themes in diaspora studies: Definition, types, creation of diaspora: conceptual framework, Theoretical and methodological implications of diasporic cultures and peoples; Post-modern approach to culture and place; Travel, displacement and movement, The process of emigration, settlement and Changing identities, multiculturalism and identity formation in the host societies, Migration and Homeland: Memories, Narratives and Oral Histories, Diaspora and Transnationalism: Transnational networks and linkages between South Asia and the diaspora, and between diasporic communities, Mapping South Asian Diaspora: Ethnographic studies.

Brown, Judith M. *Global South Asians: Introducing the Modern Diaspora*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006, 9-28; 29-58.

Rai, R. & Revees, P. (eds), *The South Asian Diaspora: Transnational Networks and Changing Identities*, London: Routledge, 2009.

Jayaram, N (ed). *Diversities in Indian Diaspora: Nature, Implications and Responses*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 2011.

Sandhya, Shukla. 'Locations for South Asian Diasporas'. In, *Annual Review of Anthropology* 30:551-72. 2011.

Thapran, M. (ed) *Transnational Migration and the Politics of Identity*, New Delhi: Sage, 2005  
Katharine Charsley and Alison Shaw, 'South Asian Transnational Marriages in Comparative Perspective.' In, *Global Networks* 6(4), 331-344 (2006).

Jain, R.K (2010) *Nation, Diaspora, Trans-Nation: Reflections from India*, New Delhi: Routledge.

Prakash C. Jain (ed.), *Indian Diaspora in West Asia: A Reader*. New Delhi: Manohar, 2007

Akbar S. Ahmed, 'South Asians in the Gulf: Aspects of Ethnic Encounter||'. In, Prakash C. Jain (Ed.), *Indian Diaspora In West Asia A Reader*. Manohar, 2007.

Petievich, Carla, ed. *The Expanding Landscape: South Asians and the Diaspora*. New Delhi: Manohar, 1999, 175- 192.