



IIT Mandi **Proposal for a New Course**

Course number : HS 303
Course Name : Partition of India: History and Legacy
Credit Distribution : 3-0-0-3
Intended for : B.Tech. (7th and 8th Semesters)
Prerequisite : None
Mutual Exclusion : None

1. Preamble:

The causes and consequences of the Partition of India are still subjects of much public and academic interest and debate. This course will introduce students to some of the key issues in the study of colonialism, nationalism and decolonization in Twentieth-century India, as seen through the lens of the dramatic events of 1947. It will focus on the causes, processes, events and legacies of Partition, going before and beyond 1947 itself. Students will be able to explore some representations of Partition in literature and film, and appreciate their connections with and divergence from the historical record. While informing students about the major historiographical trends in Partition studies, the course will also familiarize them with conventional as well as novel historical methods and sources. By enabling and encouraging a nuanced study of several dimensions of this seminal event, this course will eventually help students arrive at a multi-faceted understanding of the connections between the past and the present.

2. Course Modules with quantitative lecture hours:

Unit 1: Why is Partition history important? (1 hour) [[R3 suggestion incorporated and this new unit has been added.](#)]

- a) Interrogating popular understandings of Partition
- b) Partition as event and process

Unit 2: Trauma and Memory: Methodologies Old and New (4 hours)

- a) What is the relationship between history and memory?
- b) Interrogating the archive
- c) Potentials and **limitations** of oral history [R3 suggestion has been incorporated and ‘pitfalls’ has been replaced with ‘limitations’.]

Unit 3: The High Politics of Partition (10 hours)

- a) Majorities and minorities in a colonial context: Issues of representation and power
- b) Elections of 1937 and 1946
- c) Negotiations: The Congress, the Muslim League, and the British

Unit 4: The Partition in Punjab and Bengal: Varying Trends and Trajectories (6 hours)

- a) Patterns of violence
- b) Refugee relief and rehabilitation

Unit 5: Impact on Cities (5 hours)

- a) Evacuee property: custodians and claims
- b) Delhi
- c) Calcutta

Unit 6: Neglected Histories of Partition (6 hours)

- a) Gender – the recovery of ‘abducted’ women
- b) Caste – challenging the idea of the monolithic refugee
- c) Region – the experience of Sindh

Unit 7: The ‘Long Partition’: The Impact of Partition on Indian Polity (4 hours)

- a) Minority rights in the Indian Constitution
- b) Citizenship: short-term and long-term trends
- c) **Partition’s shadow on the India-Pakistan relationship** [R3 suggestion has been incorporated.]

Unit 7: Representing the Partition in Literature and Film (6 hours)

- a) Literature – short stories by Rajinder Singh Bedi, Saadat Hasan Manto, Intizar Husain and Ismat Chughtai.

Source book: Bhalla, Alok (ed.). *Stories about the Partition of India, Vols I-III*. Publishers, 2011.

b) Film

Ghatak, Ritwik. *Meghe Dhaka Tara* [The Cloud-Capped Star], 1960.

Sumar, Sabiha. *Khamosh Paani* [Silent Waters], 2004.

3. Text books:

- Khan Yasmin, *The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan*. Yale University Press, 2008.
- Roy, Haimanti. *The Partition of India*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

4. References:

- Butalia Urvashi. *The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India*. Penguin, 1998.
- Chatterji Joya. *Bengal Divided: Hindu Communalism and Partition, 1932- 1947*. Cambridge University Press, 1995.
- Chatterji, Joya. *Spoils of Partition: Bengal and India, 1947–1967*. Cambridge University Press, 2007. [R1 suggestion incorporated.]
- Das, Veena. 'National Honour and Practical Kinship: Of Unwanted Women and Children'. In *Critical Events: An Anthropological Perspective on Contemporary India*. Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Gauba, Kanika. "Forgetting Partition: Constitutional Amnesia and Nationalism." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 51, no. 39, 2016, pp. 41–47. [R1 suggestion incorporated.]
- Hasan Mushirul (ed.). *India's Partition: Process, Strategy and Mobilization*. Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Jalal, Ayesha. *The Sole Spokesman: Jinnah, the Muslim League and the Demand for Pakistan*. Cambridge University Press, 1994.
- Kaul Suvir (ed.), *The Partitions of Memory: The Afterlife of the Division of India*. Permanent Black, 2001.
- Kaur, Ravinder. *Since 1947: Partition Narratives among Punjabi Migrants of Delhi*. Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Malhotra, Aanchal. *Remnants of a Separation: 21 Objects from a Continent Divided*. Hurst & Co. 2019.
- Menon Ritu and Kamala Bhasin. *Borders and Boundaries: Women in India's Partition*. Kali for Women, 2000.
- Nair, Neeti. *Changing Homelands: Hindu Politics and the Partition of India*. Harvard University Press, 2011.
- Pandey, Gyanendra. *Remembering Partition: Violence, Nationalism and History in India*. Cambridge University Press, 2001.

- Talbot, Ian and Gurharpal Singh. *The Partition of India*. Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Tan Tai Yong and Gyanesh Kudaisya. *The Aftermath of Partition*. Routledge, 2000.
- Zamindar, Vazira Fazila. *The Long Partition and the Making of Modern South Asia*. Columbia University Press, 2007.
- Primary source repository: 1947 Partition Archive (<https://in.1947partitionarchive.org/>)

5. Similarity with the existing courses:

(Similarity content is declared as per the number of lecture hours on similar topics)

| S. No. | | Course Code | Similarity Content | Approx. % of Content |
|--------|--|-------------|--|----------------------|
| 1. | India in the 1950s: Biography of a Foundational Decade | HS 524 | Module 2: Refugees and Citizens in Independent India | 15% |

6. Justification of new course proposal if cumulative similarity content is >30%: Not Required.

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