

AAS 325J South Asian Migration to the United States (33305)

WGS 340; Topic 35 (46315) | HIS 365G, Topic 14 (39730) | ANS 372P (33540)

Spring 2026

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University Catalogue Course Description

Examines the South Asian diaspora in the United States.

Pre-requisites for the course

Upper division standing or permission to enroll.

Learning Outcomes

1. Examine conceptual frameworks to describe contemporary and historic migration including diaspora and transnationalism.
2. Describe the role of U.S. immigration law and policy and its impact on the formation of South Asian American communities.
3. Analyze how South Asians in the United States have been socially categorized and perceived, with attention to ethnicity, religion, and other intersecting social factors such as caste.
4. Evaluate historic and contemporary data and statistics on South Asian Americans related to immigration, labor and citizenship.
5. Analyze historical documents including legal briefs, oral histories and visual records to describe South Asian American experiences.
6. Examine contemporary issues including political participation; caste-based discrimination; immigration reform; Islamophobia; and advocacy around identity and social inclusion.

How Will I Learn?

Teaching Modality Information

This course is taught in person with occasional asynchronous, online sessions that will be clearly indicated on the course schedule and on Canvas.

Statement on Learning Success

Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need to be adaptable because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also

encourage you to reach out to the student resources available through UT. Many are shared on this syllabus, but I am happy to connect you with a person or Center if you would like.

Communication

The course Canvas site can be found at utexas.instructure.com. Please email me through Canvas. You are responsible for ensuring that the primary email address you have recorded with the university is the one you will check for course communications because that is the email address that Canvas uses.

Asking for help

You are welcome to request assistance through email or office hours.

University Policies & Resources

For a list of important university policies and helpful resources that you may need as you engage with and navigate your courses and the university, see the [University Policies and Resources Students Canvas](#) page. The page includes the language of the University Honor Code, Title IX legal requirements for Texas employees, and information about how to receive support through the office of Disability & Access.

Course Requirements and Grading

Required Materials

All required course materials will be made available through Canvas and include readings and documentary viewings from the following sources:

- Bahadur, Gaiutra. (2013). *Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Indenture*. The University of Chicago Press.
- Bald, Vivek. (1996). Tax-vala/auto-biography. Third World Newsreel.
- Bald, Vivek & Ullah, Alaudin. (2022). *In Search of Bengali Harlem*. PBS World Channel America ReFramed.
- Bald, Vivek. (2013). *Bengali Harlem and the Lost Stories of South Asian America*. Harvard University Press.
- Dhingra, P. (2012). *Life Beyond the Lobby: Indian American Motel Owners and the American Dream*. Stanford University Press.
- Leonard, Karen Isaksen. (1994). *Making Ethnic Choices*. Temple University Press.
- South Asian American Digital Archive. (2022). *Our Stories: An Introduction to South Asian America*.
- Prashad, Vijay. (2001). *The Karma of Brown Folk*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Qureshi, Uzma. (2020). *Redefining the Immigrant South: Indian and Pakistani Immigration to Houston During the Cold War*. University of North Carolina Press.

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited

No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class without my explicit, my written permission.

Unauthorized sharing of materials may facilitate cheating. The University is aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to [Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#) in the Office of the Dean of Students.

These reports can result in initiation of the student conduct process and include charge(s) for academic misconduct, potentially resulting in sanctions, including a grade impact.

Confidentiality of Class Recordings

Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

Required Devices

Students will be required to bring a digital device (Laptop, tablet) to class to access primary sources, respond to interactive learning prompts and for other learning activities during class. You are requested to use technology responsibly, and avoid distractions or misuse of devices during class in order to foster an environment conducive to productivity and learning.

Confidentiality of Class Recordings

Class recordings are available through Canvas and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

Getting Help with technology

Students needing help with technology in this course should contact the [UT Service Desk](#) (512-475-9400)

Classroom expectations

Class attendance.

Regular attendance and engagement with the themes and topics of the course is essential for your success in the course. You are allowed two-excused absences without penalty. Other absences are excused for documented medical or religious reasons. You will receive a “o” for the daily participation/attendance on days (3rd and beyond) that you skip.

Class participation. When in class, you are requested to be fully present. This means avoiding work on other assignments, checking social media, responding to emails, etc. You will get out of the course what you put in!

Content Warning.

Our classroom provides an open space for the critical and orderly exchange of ideas through discussion. Some readings and other content in this course will include topics and comments that some students may find offensive and/or traumatizing. I ask all students to help to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and sensitivity.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools (such as CoPilot or ChatGPT) in this class shall not be permitted. AI tools can be used to help generate ideas and structure writing, but should never be a substitute for original work. I will be comparing your written work including weekly discussion posts against available tools; in the event that AI writing in whole, you will receive a “0” on that assignment, and further disciplinary action as warranted. I value original writing in your own voice, even if it is not grammatically correct. If you are considering the use of generative AI but are unsure if you are allowed or the extent to which they may be utilized responsibly, please ask.

Assignments

The following table represents how you will demonstrate your learning and how we will assess the degree to which you have done so.

Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Total Grade
1. Attendance & Participation (27 class session; 10 points each)	270	10%
2. Weekly Discussion Posts (10 posts; 10 responses) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Original Post (10%) (100 points) ● Responses (10%) (100 points) 	200	20%
3. Take-Home Exams (2) (150 points each; 15% each)	300	30%
4. Final Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project Description (5%; 30 points) ● Literature Review (15%; 100 points) ● Project Draft (5%; 100 points) ● Final Presentation (5%); 100 points) ● Final Project (10%; 100 points) 	430	40%
Total	1200	100%

Description of Assignments

1. Attendance & Participation (10%)

Active engagement and participation are essential for your success in this course. You are expected to attend all classes, be present, and avoid distractions (i.e working on other assignments during class). Attendance and participation will be documented through a password-protected prompt given during each class, and based on classroom discussion, multimedia and/or course readings. Attempting to answer the attendance/participation prompt remotely will result in an automatic “o” for that day’s attendance and further disciplinary actions on academic dishonesty. Attendance/participation prompts are based on effort and engagement rather than a singular, correct response.

Absence policy. You are allowed up to three unexcused absences. At the end of the semester, I will credit up to three daily attendance/participation grades. Additional absences beyond the third will be counted as a 0 for that day’s attendance/participation with no possibility for make-up, except in the case documented medical reasons, university-authorized travel or religious accommodations.

2. Weekly Discussion Posts (10%) + Responses (10%)

Posts (10 total; 10 points each)

Each week you will be presented with a discussion prompt on Canvas that assesses your understanding of that week’s themes and topics. Direct evidence from classroom discussions, readings and documentaries is required. Your response should be a minimum of 200 words and will be evaluated according to the rubric below. Discussion posts are due on **Wednesdays, at 11:59 PM.**

	10 points Excellent	8-9 points Satisfactory	6-7 points Developing	1-5 points Poor	0 points Unsatisfactory
Quality of content	Posts have a thorough understanding of the topic and are substantiated with multiple examples.	Posts have a satisfactory understanding of the topic and are substantiated with at least one example.	Posts have a developing understanding of the topic, and may or may not have examples. Some information may be incorrect.	Posts have a cursory understanding of the topic; may or may not have examples; multiple instances of factual inaccuracies.	Post is off-topic, incomplete. Evidence of generative AI (i.e Chat GPT) is detected.

Responses (10 total; 10 points each)

By the Friday of each week a discussion post is assigned, you should respond to **(2)** classmates. Responses should reflect respectful dialogue and avoid language that could marginalize or alienate others. Respectful

disagreement and critical engagement is encouraged. Each response should be 100 words and will be evaluated according to the rubric below. Responses are due on **Fridays** at 11:59 PM.

	10 points Excellent	8-9 points Satisfactory	6-7 points Developing	1-5 points Poor	0 points Unsatisfactory
Quality of Response	Posts engage (2)classmates in respectful, civil discourse and offer new insights.	Posts engage at least (2) classmates in respectful, civil discourse, but may have factual inaccuracies or areas that require improvement.	Posts engage at least (1) classmates in respectful, civil discourse, but may have factual inaccuracies or areas that require improvement.	Posts do not offer minimal new insights or may be incomplete in terms of word count or number of requirement posts (2).	Post is off-topic or disparages another classmate, community or group. Evidence of generative AI (i.e Chat GPT) is detected.

2. Take Home Exams (2) (20%)

You will be assigned two (2), open-book take home exams that are due at 11:59 PM on **March 6th** and **April 30th**. Each exam will consist of two essay questions (500 words each) out of a possible four choices. ChatGPT or other Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools can **not** be used on these exams. The detection of generative AI will result in a score of “0”

4. Final Project (40%)

You will choose one of the four (4) options listed below to develop a final project that will be due in 5 parts on the dates indicated. Further instructions for the final project will be presented in class, and on Canvas.

- A. Policy Brief.** You will develop a 1,500 word policy brief on a contemporary topic of your choice (anti-caste based discrimination in U.S. states and universities; South Asian American attitudes towards race-conscious university admissions; South Asian Americans and mental health, etc).
- B. Oral History.** You will conduct a 60-90 minute oral history with an adult (Age 18+) who identifies as South Asian American. You will develop a set of oral history questions, record the oral history with audio and/or video, transcribe the recording and analyze the transcription for themes. You will present these themes as a written artifact (1,500 words) or 8-10 minute multimodal video.
- C. Photo Essay.** You will take original photographs of an aspect of contemporary South Asian American history and culture and present them in a digital photo essay (10 photos minimum) that includes some form of text (minimum 1,500 words). Topics might include South Asian American wedding culture; South Asian American sorority or fraternity life; South Asian American entrepreneurship; etc.
- D. Community Survey and Statistical Analysis.** You will develop a survey on a topic, or set of topics related to South Asian American history. For example, you might survey university students on their attitudes towards H1-B visas; or about faith-based accommodations in the U.S. workplace. Your survey should include 8-10 items, have a sample size of ~50-75 people and

thoughtful analysis of trends and tendencies. You will present your survey results in the form of a 1,500 word report that should include at least 3 visuals.

Part I. Project Description (5%; 30 points). Provide a 250 word description of your final project that includes a tentative title, timeline, suggested resources and modality (Due 2/18; 11:59 PM)

Part II. Literature Review (15%; 100 points) Provide a literature review of 5 scholarly sources (journal articles; book chapters; documentary film) related to your topic. Each entry should be 250 words. (Total 1,250 words) (Due 3/24; 11:59 PM)

Part III. Project Draft (5%; 100 points). Provide a working draft of your final project. At this stage, your final project does not have to be complete, but you need to demonstrate that you've made significant progress. (Due 4/17; 11:59 PM)

Part IV. Final Presentation (5%; 100 points). Present a 5 minute presentation on the last day of class (Due 4/23; 3::30 PM)

Part V. Final Project. (10%; 100 points). The final project should be turned in on 4/30/2025 by 11:59 PM.

Late Work and making up missed work

Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 10% per day. Late work is not accepted for daily attendance/participation quizzes.

Religious Holy Days

By [UT Austin policy](#), you must notify me of your pending absence for a religious holy day as far in advance as possible of the date of observance. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence. For questions regarding religious accommodations, please contact the [Office of the Dean of Students](#).

Extra Credit

Two (2) Extra credit opportunities will be provided throughout the course for 10 points each to be added to any assignment.

Grade Breaks

Grade	Cutoff
A	94%
A-	90%
B+	87%
B	84%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	74%
C-	70%
D+	67%
D	64%
D-	60%
F	<60%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY EXPECTATIONS

Students who violate University rules on academic misconduct are subject to the student conduct process. A student found responsible for academic misconduct may be assigned both a status sanction and a grade impact for the course. The grade impact could range from a zero on the assignment in question up to a failing grade in the course. A status sanction can include a written warning, probation, deferred suspension or dismissal from the University. To learn more about academic integrity standards, tips for avoiding a potential academic misconduct violation, and the overall conduct process, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>.

Course Outline

All instructions, assignments, readings, rubrics and essential information will be on the Canvas website at utexas.instructure.com. Check Canvas regularly. **Changes** to the schedule may be made at my discretion if circumstances require. I will announce any such changes in class and will also communicate them via a Canvas announcement. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced, and I will do my best to ensure that you are notified of changes with as much advance notice as possible.

Information

Carrying of Handguns on Campus

Students in this class should be aware of the following university policies related to Texas' Open Carry Law:

- Students in this class who hold a license to carry are asked to [review the university policy regarding campus carry](#).

- Individuals who hold a license to carry are eligible to carry a concealed handgun on campus, including in most outdoor areas, buildings and spaces that are accessible to the public, and in classrooms.
- It is the responsibility of concealed-carry license holders to carry their handguns on or about their person at all times while on campus. Open carry is NOT permitted, meaning that a license holder may not carry a partially or wholly visible handgun on campus premises or on any university driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area.