

Global 197 (Special Topics)

Spring 2020

## **Aspects of Histories of Punjab and the Sikhs**

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**Office Hours:** Wednesday 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. over Zoom/Skype/Whatsapp to be confirmed while scheduling appointment. Please send your preference at the time of request.

### **Course Description**

This course will look at the histories of Punjab and the Sikhs in South Asia and the Diaspora. The course will start by looking at the historical time and the later memory of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism. It will go on to study the life of the tenth Guru Gobind Singh and the establishment of the Khalsa, and its gendered imaginations. With this historical background, we will then turn to the global histories of colonialism, migration, and nationalist movements. The colonial Punjab, its histories and legacies will be referred to through examining cataclysmic events like the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919; and the Partition of the subcontinental Punjab in 1947. The Punjabi Diaspora in the West and its political commitment to dismantle imperialism will be seen through the Ghadar movement based in the west coast of the US, but whose site of action lay in India. The Diaspora's social, cultural and gender dimensions will be studied through figures like Maharaja Duleep Singh, the last Sikh prince in exile in the UK and his place in the diasporic Sikh imagination; his daughter Sophia Duleep Singh and her involvement in the Suffragette movement; and the intimate and familial relations of the early Punjabi settlers in California. The cultural dimensions of Sikh identity, particularly through the figure of the Khalsa male will be examined, also giving attention to the post 9/11 situation in the US.

### **Key Questions**

Where is Punjab and who are the Punjabi peoples? What are the affective and geographical significations of the term Punjabin? How was the Punjabi and Sikh Diaspora in the US invested in Indian nationalism? What are the demographic changes the peoples of Punjab have witnessed, including the partitioning of the territory they inhabited and its ramifications on their identity? Who are the Sikhs? What are the gendered imaginaries of Sikh and Punjabi identities? What happens to Punjabi and Sikh identity in the Diaspora? How does the Diaspora invest in politics in the 'homeland'? How do identities change or reconfigure in global contexts? What are the cultural dimensions of a Punjabi and Sikh identity?

## **Teaching & Learning**

In the Spring Quarter this course is structured around remote learning supported by web-based tools. Given the challenges of this medium where both tutors and students are under-prepared for such pedagogy, we will have to keep channels of communication open to make this quarter as productive as possible. Given that students would be in different time zones and may have difficulty with internet access during specific times, zoom classes will not be possible. We will be learning more about this medium as we move ahead during the quarter and there can be significant changes in the guidelines, course structure, readings, etc. depending on what works and what does not. Please be patient and we will work together to get through this difficult time.

I will post some short-recorded clips that you can access as per your convenience during the week. These will deal with important concepts that we wish to cover. Please note that this will not be a comprehensive lecture that you get in a class room. This will be supplemented with ppts that will be uploaded on GauchoSpace. Given that both instructors and students could perhaps be ill or caring for sick family members during various days of the quarter, we will follow a flexible assessment schedule involving participation, presentation, short essays and short answers. As so much will be happening around you, it is advisable that you find a few hours every day to focus on your education. It could be therapeutic. As you will be taking other courses, it may be best to dedicate one day of the week to one course. You will have to reorganize yourself for this quarter. Your organization and time management will be critical to successful completion of this course.

## **Course Requirements**

Assessments in this course will be weekly (with some gaps) in order to ensure that we all keep pace with the challenges of online pedagogy.

You will be required to do **four short answers** (300 words: 10 points each) starting from the end of third week – to be posted on Gaucho Space by Friday 3:00 p.m. (Pacific Time) to prompts that will be posted on Gaucho Space.

In addition, there will be **two short essays** that will have to be completed: the first of 600 words (20 points) to be completed by the **end of week 6** (posted on Friday 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time); and the second of 1000 words (40 points) (posted on Friday **Finals week** by 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time).

## **Course Schedule**

### **Week 1**

## **March 30 & April 1:**

Introduction to the Course

## **Week 2**

### **April 6 & 8**

#### **Establishing a new Faith: Guru Nanak in History and Imagination**

1. W.H. McLeod, The Nanak-panth
2. J.S. Grewal, Foundation of the Sikh Panth

## **Week 3**

### **April 13 & 15**

#### **Guru Gobind Singh, the Khalsa & Gendered Imaginations**

1. W.H. McLeod, The Khalsa and its Rahit
2. J.S. Grewal, Transformation of the Sikh Panth
3. Doris Jakobsh, The Development of the Early Sikh Tradition: A Gender Perspective

## **Week 4**

### **April 20 & 22**

#### **The Ghadar Movement: Global Radicalism from American West Coast to India**

1. Maia Ramnath, Haj to Utopia (Chapters 1 & 2)
2. The Story of Bud Dhillon (available at SAADA – South Asian American Digital Archive)

## **Week 5**

### **April 27 & 29**

#### **Jallianwala Bagh 13th April 1919 in Punjab's History**

1. Ishita Banerjee-Dube, A History of Modern India (pp. 279-284)
2. Nick Lloyd, Gandhi and the Rowlatt Satyagraha
3. Reading Udham Singh's Letters

4. Watch the clip from Richard Attenborough's film **Gandhi** (1982)  
<https://youtu.be/V6NY9voc848>

## **Week 6**

**May 4 & 6**

**Revisions and taking stock.**

**First short essay to be submitted on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May by 3:00 p.m. Pacific time.**

## **Week 7**

**May 11, 13**

**Aspects of Punjabi Cultures: Turbans, 5Ks.**

1. W.H. McLeod, The Five Ks
2. W.H. McLeod, The Turban: Symbol of Sikh Identity
3. (Clips from the Erika Surat Andersen short film "Turbans")  
Video  
**Turbans**  
Erika Surat Andersen  
New York, NY : Filmmakers Library 2001  
Access online
4. Virinder Kalra, Locating the Sikh Pagh

## **Week 8**

**May 18 & 20**

**Narratives about the Partition of Punjab**

1. Saadat Hasan Manto, Toba Tek Singh (short story)
2. Haimanti Roy, Introduction: Three Partitions; & A Mottled Dawn
3. Vazira Zamindar, Passports and Boundaries

## **Week 9**

**May 25 & 27**

## **Diasporic Lives: Memories of a Maharaja of Punjab**

1. Tony Ballantyne, Maharaja Duleep Singh, Memory and the Negotiations of Sikh Identity
2. BBC Film on Sophia Duleep Singh – Sophia: Suffragette Princess  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAH0MLNfK1U&t=1223s>

## **Week 10**

**June 1 & 3**

### **Mexican-Sikh Relations in California**

1. Karen Isaksen Leonard, Marriages and Children
2. Clips from PBS Documentary “Roots in the Sand” (Jayasri Majumdar Hart)  
<https://youtu.be/236AWbnDtBc>

## **Week 11**

**Revisions, Recaps, Final submissions**

**Second short essay to be submitted on Friday June 8<sup>th</sup> by 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time.**