

Course Syllabus: ANTH 130I — Cultures of India, Spring 2022

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<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/96268022499?pwd=VEJwcjVJU0drN3V6U3dvaWt4bk9Cdz09>

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Introduction

This course is an introduction to modern Indian culture and society. India has gone through rapid and unimaginable changes since its independence in 1947. We will be using ethnographies, memoirs, films, and other literary sources to explore unity in the diversity that India is known for. We will focus on important markers of cultural identity such as religion, language, region, caste, food, and clothing as well as gender and sexuality in modern India. In my lectures, I will provide a historical and cultural background of the diverse regions that make India so unique. We will also discuss the drastic changes which are taking place, resulting in a lot of conflict and uncertainty about the future.

Text Books for the Course

Paz, Octavio (1998) *In Light of India*, Mariner Books

Singh, Kushwant (1956). *Train to Pakistan*. Chatto & Windus

The books are made available at the Bay Tree Bookstore at UCSC. There will also be limited and timed access to the books at the library online. The rest of the readings will be available on Canvas.

Course Duration

The course duration is from March 28th, 2022 to June 9th, 2022. The class will be asynchronous.

Grading

There will be multiple grading components in the course. Students will be graded for quizzes, midterms, and finals. There will also be grades for class participation and discussions.

Quizzes

Every week, students will be expected to take a quiz. These quizzes are meant to examine the students' understanding and grasp of the course texts. The quizzes will be multiple choice and have 20 questions each. Students will get two attempts at each quiz. The ten quizzes in all will amount to **20** percent of the total grade.

Midterms

Students will write an essay for their midterms. The essay will be focused on any relevant topic related to the Cultures of India. For example, cultural diversity, caste, religion, region, gender, sexuality, Bollywood cinema in India and Indian diaspora, food, aging, youth, feasts and festivals, Ayurveda among others. For the essay, each student will pick a film or a television serial (for example Never Say I Ever) that depicts India or the cultures of India, and analyze the depiction in the context of the readings covered in the course until Week 5. Detailed requirements of both assignments along with the grading rubrics will be made available by Week 2. The midterms will be graded on a total of 30 points and will amount to **25** percent of the final grade.

Finals

Students will do a final research project. The final research project has to be an independently-developed ethnography where students can undertake fieldwork or conduct a digital ethnography. Several small **marked** assignment tasks will let you receive feedback and help you produce the final paper: **a research proposal** (due Week 3), **an annotated bibliography** (due Week 7), and **a presentation** during office hours (due Week 9). Detailed requirements of the research paper along with the grading rubric will be made available by week 3. The finals will be graded on a total of 35 points and will amount to **35** percent of the final grade.

Discussion Threads

Students will be required to contribute to the discussion threads every week. The discussion threads will be maintained on the week's readings. Engage with the readings assigned for the week and note your reflections. Pick **three ideas** from those readings and lectures that you would associate with the videos/films that you watched for the week. End your reading response with one or two questions about the readings or films. You will upload the reading responses to the discussion thread on or before every Thursday. Additionally, you will also reply to at least one other person's reading response and address the question(s) raised by them. The deadline for the reply to another person's response is Friday. The discussion will amount to **20** percent of the total grade.

Important Dates:

Week 1

Quiz 1 - Due April 1st, 2022

Week 2

Quiz 2 - Due April 8th, 2022

Week 3

Final research proposal - Due April 13th, 2022

Quiz 3 - Due April 15th, 2022

Week 4

Quiz 4 - Due April 22nd, 2022

Week 5

Quiz 5 - Due April 29th, 2022

Week 6

Mid-term - Due May 4th, 2022

Quiz 6 - Due May 6th, 2022

Week 7

Annotated bibliography - Due May 11th, 2022

Quiz 7 - Due May 13th, 2022

Week 8

Quiz 8 - Due May 20th, 2022

Week 9

Quiz 9 - Due May 27th, 2022

short group presentations required during office hours this week

Week 10

Quiz 10 - Due June 3rd, 2022

Finals Week

Final research paper - June 8th, 2022

Week 1: (Mar 28 — Apr 1)

Orientation and overview

Lecture 1

Introduction of the themes and purpose of the course. Why Should We Study India?

Discussion of the texts and assignments.

- Readings
 - Octavio Paz, In Light of India, pp. 3-33
- Video
 - Indian Culture Full Documentary ([Indian Culture Full Documentary](#)) —
India is probably the most culturally diverse country in the world. From

North to South and East to West, there are thousands of different cultures followed in the country. India's languages, religions, dance, music, architecture, and customs differ from place to place in the country. This is not very well known, but four of the major religions of the world- Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism originated in India, and almost all the different religions are followed by the people in India. Perhaps the rich and deep history is the reason for such a strong cultural diversity. This aspect attracts thousands of tourists to visit its various states every year

Lecture 2

Understanding the notion of Unity in Diversity of an Ancient Civilization: A Historical Perspective. Early Conceptions of the Cosmic and Social Order in Hinduism; The Hindu Construction of Reality.

- Readings
 - Paz, pp. 34 - 71
 - Early India pp. XXVI – XXXIII (Canvas)
 - Flood, Gavin (August 24, 2009). *History of Hinduism*. Available at: https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/history/history_1.shtml

Week 2: (Apr 4 — Apr 8)

Sultans and Mughals and Colonialism

Lecture 1

India: The History and Background of a Pluri-ethnic Nation-State, Advent of Islam and Interreligious Dialogue

- Readings
 - Paz, pp. 72 -133

- The advent of Islam in India pp. 1-28
- A Concise History of Modern India pp. 1- 55 (canvas)
- *Sufism* by John O. Voll, Kazuo Ohtsuka
— <http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com/article/opr/t236/e0759#IndianSubcontinent>
- Videos
 - A Billion Colour Story on Hindu Muslim relationship — (available on Netflix) — As Hari, the son of Imran and Parvi, sets out on a journey through India to make a film, he comes across incidents that change his life.
 - Khwaja Mere Khwaja (Jodha Akbar) — [Khwaja Mere Khwaja - Jodhaa Akbar](#) — This is a dramatized depiction of whirling dervishes and a classic rendition of Sufi music

Lecture 2

What did the British colonization of India actually mean? What effects did colonialism have on peoples' lives?

- Readings:
 - Paz, pp.135 – Finish reading the book (prepare a list of vocabulary Paz uses from each chapter of the book) and share it on canvas.
 - A Concise History of Modern India pp. 167- 230 (canvas)
 - Thomas R. Metcalf, Ideologies of the Raj “Introduction: Britain and India in the eighteenth century” pp. 1-27 (canvas)
- Videos (Pick one)
 - Ghare Baire by Satyajit Ray — available on <https://youtu.be/NNdEZEFrG7Y> — Bimala is happily married to a forward-thinking man who encourages her to educate herself. But their relationship is challenged when Sandip, a radical man, enters their lives.

- Laagan — available on Netflix — During the British Raj, a farmer named Bhuvan accepts the challenge of Captain Andrew Russell to beat his team in a game of cricket and enable his village to not pay taxes for the next three years.
- Gandhi by Richard Attenborough — available on Amazon Prime — A lawyer, Mohandas Gandhi, returns to British India from South Africa. He begins a nationwide campaign of nonviolent resistance against British rule, pressuring Britain to liberate India.

Week 3: (Apr 11 — Apr 15)

Religion and Social Change

research proposal due Wednesday, April 13th

Lecture 1

Religion and Politics in pre-Independence India

- Readings:
 - Tharoor, Shashi (2018). *Why I am a Hindu*. Aleph Book Company — Section 1 (My Hinduism)
 - Chakrabarty, Paulomi — Gender, Women and Partition: Literary representations, refugee women and partition studies — available on <https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9781315848501.ch3>
 - Bose, Sugata (1998). *Nation, Reason and Religion: India's Independence in International Perspective*. *Economic and Political Weekly* 33(31) — available on <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4407049>
 - Singh, Kushwant (1956). *Train to Pakistan*. Chatto & Windus
 - Manto, Saadat Hasan (1955). *Toba Tek Singh (short story)*. Available at <https://www.wordswithoutborders.org/article/toba-tek-singh>

- Videos:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qK3bW3yAWo> — On Hinduism & Hindutva | India Today Conclave 2019
 - Films (Pick 1)
 - Pinjar (2003) — available on Amazon Prime — Rashid abducts Puro, a young Hindu woman, to take revenge on her family over an ancestral dispute. However, when she manages to escape, her family disowns her and she is forced to return to Rashid.
 - Garam Hava (1974) — available at [Garam Hawa - English Subtitle](#) — In post-partition India, a Muslim businessman and his family struggle for their rights in a country that was once their own.
 - 1947 Earth — available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEJdS7_RC4Q — A young Parsi girl discovers the truth about human nature as friends turn foes while the city is set aflame during partition.
 - Khamosh Pani (Silent Water) *Khamosh Pani* is a 2003 Indo-Pakistani film about a widowed mother and her young son living in a Punjabi village as it undergoes radical changes during the late 1970s. Available on Canopy through UCSC library.

Lecture 2

Religion and Politics in Contemporary India

- Readings:
 - Tharoor, Shashi (2018). *Why I am a Hindu*. Aleph Book Company — Section 2 (Political Hinduism) available on canvas

- Vaishnav, Milan (2019) — *The BJP in Power: Indian Democracy and Religious Nationalism*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. — Section 1 (Religious Nationalism and India’s Future) — available at <https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/04/04/religious-nationalism-and-india-s-future-pub-78703>
- Nishat Haider (2010) Genealogy of Violence: Trauma, Memory and Identity in Nandita Das's *Firaaq*, *South Asian Review*, 31:2, 84-107, DOI: [1080/02759527.2010.11932751](https://doi.org/10.1080/02759527.2010.11932751)
- Videos
 - Ramachandra Guha on the Makers of Modern India: [Ramachandra Guha on the Makers of Modern India \(Full-Length Version\)](#)
 - Hindu Muslim conflict: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2002/05/24/may-24-2002-hindu-muslim-conflict-in-india/12044/>
- Films (Pick 1)
 - Bombay (1995) — available at — [Bombay](#) — A Muslim woman and a Hindu man fall in love and elope to get married as their families object to their relationship. However, when they move to Mumbai, they end up facing the wrath of communal riots.
 - Firaaq (2008) - available at [Firaaq](#) - Following the violent 2002 riots in Gujarat, people who were victims, perpetrators, and silent observers during the chaos, find themselves deeply affected in a way that changes their lives forever.

Week 4: (Apr 18 – Apr 22)

Gender

Lecture 1

Gender and Religion in India

- Readings:
 - Serena Nanda, Neither Man nor woman, pp.1- 37 (Canvas)
 - Annapurna Pandey: Religion and Indian Diaspora (Canvas)
 - Annapurna Pandey: Desi Transgenders Find Solace, Encouragement, and Acceptance From Activists and Support Groups, <https://americankahani.com/lifestyle/desi-transgenders-find-solace-encouragement-and-acceptance-from-activists-and-support-groups>
 - ‘Annapurna Pandey: Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui’ Marks a Paradigm Shift in the Acceptance of Transgender Lives in Popular Culture, <https://americankahani.com/entertainment/chandigarh-ki-aashiqui-marks-a-paradigm-shift-in-the-acceptance-of-transgender-lives-in-popular-culture/>
 - Radhe Jaggi: Women who wear saris do not trade strength for femininity — available at <https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/fashion/radhe-jaggi-on-her-sari-soiree/article26162908.ece>
 - Goel, Ina (2019). *India’s Third Gender Rises Again*. SAPIENS — available at <https://www.sapiens.org/body/hijra-india-third-gender>
 - Annapurna Pandey: Anjali Rimi’s Long Journey from a Traumatic Childhood in Southern India to Transgender Activism in America, <https://americankahani.com/perspectives/anjali-rimis-long-journey-from-a-traumatic-childhood-in-southern-india-to-transgender-activism-in-america>
- Videos
 - Al Jazeera (October 17, 2013). *India’s ‘third gender’: A marginalized social class* — available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/thestream/2013/10/4456-200325082219364.html>

- Film: Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui' (2021): Abhishek Kapoor's unconventional love story is set in the hotbed of masculinity, and essentially a case study of a man and a woman who are struggling inside the bodies that nature has allotted them, Film available on Netflix.

Lecture 2

Caste and Gender

- Readings:
 - Annapurna Pandey, 'Micro Credit and Women: An Indian Experience' (canvas)
 - International Dalit Solidarity Network (2019). *Caste and Gender Justice: Delivering on the UN Global Goals for Dalit women and girls*. Published by IDSN — available at <https://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Caste-and-Gender-Justice-Low-Res2.pdf>
 - International Policy Digest (15 January 2020). *The Position of Dalit Women in Indian Society*. Available at: <https://intpolicydigest.org/2020/01/15/the-position-of-dalit-women-in-indian-society/>
- Videos (pick one)
 - Kamla and Raji: Working Women of Ahmedabad (1990) — available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1DgvNRInal> — Documentary from the Center for South Asia at University of Wisconsin – Madison

Writing with Fire (2021) nominated for Oscar 2022 – available on HBO Max.

Directed by Sushmit Ghosh

and Rintu Thomas. In a cluttered news landscape dominated by men, emerges India's only newspaper run by Dalit women. Chief Reporter Meera and her journalists break traditions, redefining what it means to be powerful.

Week 5: (Apr 25 – Apr 29)

Tribes, Caste, and The State – The New Face of India

Lecture 1

Caste in India

- Readings:

- Human Rights Watch (2001). *Caste Discrimination: A Global Concern*. United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance — Section 4 (Background) — available at https://www.hrw.org/reports/2001/globalcaste/caste0801-03.htm#P131_16327
- Public Radio International (2019). *Caste in America (Part 1): Even with a Harvard pedigree, caste follows 'like a shadow'*. Available at <https://www.pri.org/stories/2019-03-05/even-harvard-pedigree-caste-follows-shadow>
- Public Radio International (2019). *Caste in America (Part 2): Love conquers caste for this couple, but Indian marriage traditions continue in US*. Available at <https://www.pri.org/stories/2019-03-06/love-conquers-caste-couple-indian-marriage-traditions-continue-us>
- Public Radio International (2019). *Caste in America (Part 3): The US isn't safe from the trauma of caste bias*. Available at <https://www.pri.org/stories/2019-03-08/us-isn-t-safe-trauma-caste-bias>

- Videos:

- Pistulya (2009) — available at [Pistulya Short Film - official video - Nagraj Manjule](#) — The film is the story of a boy named Pistulya who hails from a Dalit family and studies in the local school. However Pistulya can

continue his education at the local school only if he gets a school uniform and books. Forced to beg for food by his mother and relatives, Pistulya endures his lot bravely. His determination to pursue education is undeterred and keeps him going & eventually he prevails over his circumstances.

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Lecture 2

Tribes and Indian National Identity: Location of Exclusion and Marginality

- Readings:
 - Virginus Xaxa, “Tribes and Indian National Identity: Location of Exclusion and Marginality” (Canvas)
 - Jenkins, Citing Religious Freedom, Native Americans Fight to Take Back Sacred Land
 - From Mining Companies, auy, PA: July 24, 2015. (canvas)
 - Annapurna Pandey, Kondhs’ Resistance Movement To Save Sacred Niyamgiri, Odisha (canvas)
- Videos
 - Let The Tribal Peoples Voice Lead - Virginius Xaxa — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jh5b-eMe2Gs>
 - Virginus Xaxa on Tribals in India — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDIkSN1dtak>

Week 6: (May 2 – May 6)

Making of Modern India: Family and Social Change in India

****Midterm Exam due Wednesday May 4th on Canvas****

Lecture 1

Gender and Family in Modern India

- Readings

- Serena Nanda, 'Arranging a Marriage in India' (canvas)
- Patricia Uberoi, "The diaspora comes home: disciplining desire in DDLJ" in Freedom and Destiny: Gender, Family and Popular Culture (Delhi: Oxford, 2006) pp 180-216 (canvas)
- M. Shah "Is the Joint family disintegrating?" (canvas)
- Annapurna Pandey, Exclusion of Widows and State Welfare Policies: Some Insights from Odisha (2022) (Canvas)

- Videos

- Dadi's Family (2019) — available at <https://vimeo.com/350587394> — Three generations of women in a village family in India.
- A Suitable Girl (2017) — available on Netflix — A Suitable Girl follows three young women in India struggling to maintain their identities and follow their dreams amid intense pressure to get married. Documenting the arranged marriage and matchmaking process in Varanasi over four years, the film examines the women's complex relationship with marriage, family, and culture.
- Indian Matchmaking (2020) Available on Netflix

Lecture 2

Religion and Social Change in India

Readings TBD or withheld so that you can focus on mid-terms

Week 7: (May 9 – May 13)

Food Culture of India

annotated bibliography due Wednesday, May 11th

Lecture 1:

Food/Well Being in India

- Readings:
 - Arjun Appadurai, Gastro-Politics in Hindu South Asia, American Ethnologist, Vol. 8, No. 3, Symbolism and Cognition (Aug. 1981), pp. 494-511 Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/644298>
 - Why India is a nation of foodies - BBC News 21 June 2016: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-36415078>
 - Ashish Nandy, THE CHANGING POPULAR CULTURE OF INDIAN FOOD: PRELIMINARY NOTES (canvas)
- Videos
 - The Lunchbox (2013) — available on Netflix — An unlikely mistake by a tiffin carrier service results in Ila's tiffin, which was made for her husband, being delivered to Saajan Fernandes. An unusual friendship soon develops between the two.
 - Stanley Ka Dabba (2011) — available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nd11rKINLM> — Schoolboy Stanley does not carry lunch, which is noticed by a teacher who forces kids to share their food with him. He soon warns Stanley that he must get a lunch box if he wants to attend school.

Lecture 2

Food and Indian Society

- Readings:

- Another forgotten food culture to the fore <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/food/another-forgotten-food-culture-to-the-fore/printarticle/2092947.cms>
- Homegrown (November 21, 2018). *Dalit Identity And Food: Memories Of Trauma On A Plate*. Available at <https://homegrown.co.in/article/803216/dalit-identity-and-food-memories-of-trauma-on-a-plate>
- In charts: Vegetarianism in India has more to do with caste hierarchy than love for animals — <https://scroll.in/article/833178/vegetarianism-in-india-has-more-to-do-with-caste-hierarchy-than-love-for-animals>

Week 8: (May 16 – May 20)

Aging and Old Age Care in India

Lecture 1

The Process of Aging in Indian Religious traditions

- Readings
 - Srinivas Tilak, 'Growing Old', pp. 51 – 80 (canvas)
 - Srinivas Tilak., Religion and Aging in the Indian Tradition, pp. 111- 129 (canvas)
 - Aruna Dubey*, Seema Bhasin**, Neelima Gupta* and Neeraj Sharma*, 'A Study of Elderly Living in Old Age Home and Within Family Set-up in Jammu' (canvas)
 - Annapurna Pandey, Social Exclusion of the Elderly in India (canvas)
- Videos
 - Astu (2013) — available on Amazon Prime — Dr Chakrapani Shastri, a retired Sanskrit professor suffering from Alzheimer's disease, sees an

elephant on the road and follows it across the city, thus panicking his daughter.

- Maska (2020) — available on Netflix — Determined to make it in showbiz, an aspiring actor considers turning his back on his family's café business

Lecture 2

Elderly, Youth and Social Change in India

- Readings

- Craig Jeffrey, “Great Expectations: Youth in Contemporary India”, pp. 62 – 79 in Isabelle Clark-Deces (Editor), A Companion to the Anthropology of India (ebook on canvas).
- Sarah Lamb, “Ways of Aging” in Isabelle Clark-Deces (Editor), A Companion to the Anthropology of India, pp. 500 – 516 (canvas)
- <https://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/en/NewsDetail/index/9/9024/India-n-Cinemas-Tribute-to-Mellow-Age>
- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/hindi/bollywood/news/bollywood-planning-an-old-age-home-for-its-seniors/articleshow/58964355.cms>
- Radhicka Kapoor, The Mounting Challenge of Youth Unemployment in India, Feb 21st 2022 (canvas)
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2022/02/21/the-mounting-challenge-of-youth-unemployment-in-india/#:~:text=The%20aggregate%20youth%20unemployment%20rate,in%20the%20period%202017%E2%80%932020>. Can you please add the external link?

- Videos

- Baghban (2003) is available on youtube. Raj (Amitabh Bachchan), a banker, has done his best to raise his four sons in the hopes that when he and their mother, Pooja (Hema Malini), retire, they will take good care of them. However, things do not work out that way. When Raj retires, the sons want him to live with the eldest (Aman Verma), while the second-oldest (Samir Soni) cares for Pooja. The youngest two children, in

turn, will each take a parent six months later. Will the sons persist with such a cruel arrangement?

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKgA_-NUtjE
- Badhaai Ho (2018) — available at https://www.hotstar.com/in/movies/badhaai-ho/1000120365/watch?utm_source=gwa — Nakul, a 25-year-old man, is shocked to discover that his mother is pregnant. His struggle to come to terms with the news puts his relationship with his girlfriend, Renee, in jeopardy.

Week 9: (May 23 – May 27)

Films in India and the Indian Diaspora

small presentation of research findings required in office hours this week

Lecture 1

Indian Films

- Readings
 - The Guardian (2013). *The birth of India's film industry: how the movies came to Mumbai*. Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2013/jul/25/birth-indias-film-industry-movies-mumbai>
 - Rajadhyaksha, Ashish (2010). *The 'Bollywoodization' of the Indian cinema: Cultural Nationalism in a Global Arena*. *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 4(1). Available at: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/1464937032000060195?casa_token= TbndeuAlw0AAAAA:k6jSlifQywoWrXv5Nvs8TGnylhkvLnZP8pOXr0ssris_Cyf9QjXZMWOS4MFDd0bqeT0KgZ4Qo32E
 - Gupta, Chidananda Das (1969). *Indian Cinema Today*. *Film Quarterly* 22, no. 4. Available at:

https://www.jstor.org/stable/1210307?casa_token=ly5YIYh5-hYAAAAA:oWYzwvSOXj9fQek7Xcc2tHWEzG9K7KDXxn8Mg_nFNW7e1pbRsc6_OzRSbz_mN_asGIRrXs_wU3xMkCGX3CYDg-y2GI4c21_vdNMvUKu6DMj4EMd9_yM&seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

- Videos
 - Om Shanti Om (2007) — available on Netflix — Om, a junior film artist, is smitten by Shantipriya, a renowned actress, but is killed while trying to save her from a fire accident. Thirty years later, he is reborn and sets out to avenge her death.
 - Bollywood Talkies (2013) — available on Netflix — An anthology of four short stories that describe how films have an influence on the lives of people from various strata of society.
 - Luck By Chance (2009) — available on Netflix — An aspiring actor, Vikram, wishes to make it big in Bollywood. He gets a chance to play the male lead in a film but it affects his relationship with his girlfriend, Sona, who is a struggling actress.

Lecture 2

Bollywood films in Indian Diaspora: Reflection on the Society

- Readings
 - Mishra, Vijay (1996). *The diasporic imaginary: Theorizing the Indian diaspora*. Textual Practice 10(3). Available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/09502369608582254>
 - [As Bollywood Evolves, Women Gain Greater Roles](#)
 - [Monita Soni, The Comedy of Errors: Congratulations are in Order to Cast and Crew of 'Badhai Do' for Tackling Important Social Issue,
https://americankahani.com/entertainment/the-comedy-of-errors-congratulations-are-in-order-to-cast-and-crew-of-badhai-do-for-tackling-important-social-issue/](#)
 -
- Videos

- The Namesake (2007) — available on Amazon Prime — Ashima and Ashoke, immigrant Bengali parents, try to adjust to life in America, while Gogol, their son, tries to find his identity and choose between the two worlds.
- Bend it Like Beckham (2002) — A girl bends the rules, to reach her goal, in professional soccer. But her traditional parents refuse to even consider it and want her to hang up her football boots, find a nice boy and learn to cook.
- **Badhai Do (2022) – available on Netflix. Shardul Thakur and Suman Singh enter into a marriage of convenience but chaos ensues when her girlfriend comes to stay with them.**

Week 10: (May 30 – June 3)

What is happening in India today? An overview

Lecture 1

Contemporary Issues

- Readings
 - As Modi Pushes Hindu Agenda, a Secular India Fights Back — <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/20/world/asia/india-muslims-citizenship.html>
 - Why People Are Protesting in India — <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/17/world/asia/india-protests-citizenship-muslims.html?action=click&module=RelatedLinks&pgtype=Article>
 - BBC News (25th March, 2020). India's poorest 'fear hunger may kill us before coronavirus'. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-52002734?SThisFB&fbclid=IwAR1boYtfKF0S8hoN3MvSARxX0C0ccH3F7tQfO_b2Xi4dOGK2e3SeyDZrPoc

Lecture 2

Identity and Modernity — Rise of Hindutwa Nationalism

- Readings:
 - Pankaj Mishra, How Narendra Modi Seduced India with Envy and Hate — <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/23/opinion/modi-india-election.html>
 - Pankaj Mishra: India Is Shooting Itself in the Foot in Kashmir — <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2019-08-28/india-s-kashmir-crack-down-is-damaging-its-image-overseas>
 - Pankaj Mishra and Mirza Waheed on the Death of India's Liberal Self-Image — <https://thewire.in/rights/pankaj-mishra-mirza-waheed-kashmir-cao-india>
 - Portraits of resilience: the new year in Shaheen Bagh — <https://www.livemint.com/mint-lounge/features/portraits-of-resilience-the-new-year-in-shaheen-bagh-11577952208794.html>
 - Shaheen Bagh: The women occupying Delhi street against citizenship law — <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-50902909>

Final Research Paper Due: Wednesday June 8th

Final Note: This syllabus may be revised as the course goes on to accommodate guest speakers as well as current news articles among other readings. Students are responsible for noting such changes and keeping track of events and readings in the current syllabus.