

GENERIC ELECTIVE (GE): Migration and Indian Diaspora: Social and Cultural Histories

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Migration and Indian Diaspora: Social and Cultural Histories	4	3	1	0		

Learning Objectives

This paper explores the historical patterns of Indian migration and the socio-cultural transformations within diasporic communities. It examines their political and economic contributions in host countries and India, highlighting their impact on global economies and policy frameworks. The study evaluates key theoretical approaches to migration, identity formation, and transnationalism, offering insights into cultural hybridity and diasporic belonging. Additionally, it assesses government policies and international frameworks related to diaspora engagement, dual nationality, and economic partnerships. By integrating historical, cultural, political, and economic perspectives, this paper provides a comprehensive understanding of the Indian diaspora's evolving role in a globalized world.

Learning outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Critically engage with primary and secondary sources on migration and diaspora studies.
- Explain key historical events and their role in shaping Indian migration patterns.
- Analyze how migration influences identity, belonging, and cultural hybridity.
- Assess the impact of Indian diasporic communities on host countries and their connections to India.
- Develop independent research skills in migration and diaspora studies.

Syllabus

Unit I: Understanding Migration and Diaspora: Theoretical and Historical Frameworks

1. Concepts and theories of migration and diaspora
2. Ancient, medieval, and early modern Indian migration patterns
3. Colonial-era migration: Indentured labor and the global dispersal of Indian laborers
4. Post-colonial migration: The Indian diaspora in North America, Europe, and the Middle East.

Unit II: Social and Cultural Histories of the Indian Diaspora

1. Cultural adaptations, hybridity, and syncretism and social categories within the Indian diasporic communities.
2. Indian cinema, literature, and popular culture in diasporic identity formation

Unit III : Political Economy and Contemporary Issues in the Indian Diaspora

1. Economic contributions and remittances to India
2. Diaspora engagement in Indian politics and foreign policy

Unit IV: Challenges faced by Diasporic communities

1. Citizenship, belonging, and challenges of multiculturalism in host nations
2. Contemporary issues faced by the diasporic communities: Xenophobia, racism, and identity politics

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Essential/recommended readings

Unit I: This unit will enable students to develop a theoretical understanding of migration and diaspora studies while exploring historical migration patterns and their socio-political contexts. It will help them analyze the economic, political, and social factors that contributed to migration, particularly the impact of colonialism and indentured labor systems. Students will also examine post-colonial migration trends and their implications for Indian communities in North America, Europe, and the Middle East. (Teaching time: 15 lectures 5 weeks)

- Vertovec, Steven. (2009). *Transnationalism*. London: Routledge.
- Cohen, Robin. (2008). *Global Diasporas: An Introduction*. London: Routledge.
- Jayaram, N. (Ed.). (2004). *The Indian Diaspora: Dynamics of Migration*. New Delhi: Sage.
- Tinker, Hugh. (1974). *A New System of Slavery: The Export of Indian Labour Overseas 1830–1920*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Jain, Ravindra K. (1993). *Indian Communities Abroad: Themes and Literature*. New Delhi: Manohar.
- Safran, William. Ajaya Sahoo, Ajaya & Brij V. Lal (Ed.). (2019). *Transnational Migrations The Indian Diaspora*. Routledge India.
- Mishra, Vijay (2007). *The Literature of the Indian Diaspora: Theorizing the Diasporic Imaginary*. New Delhi: Routledge.

Unit II This unit will help students critically engage with how caste, class, and gender influence migration experiences, shaping the socio-cultural fabric of Indian diasporic communities. It will enhance their understanding of cultural adaptation, hybridity, and syncretism, exploring the role of religion, traditions, and social networks in maintaining diasporic identity. The unit will also introduce students to how Indian cinema, literature, and popular culture contribute to diasporic narratives, fostering a sense of belonging while negotiating identity within the host society. (Teaching time: 15 lectures 5 weeks)

- Lal, Brij V., Peter Reeves, and Rajesh Rai (Eds.). (2006). *The Encyclopedia of the Indian Diaspora*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- Appadurai, Arjun. (1996). *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Mishra, Vijay. (2007). *The Literature of the Indian Diaspora: Theorizing the Diasporic Imaginary*. London: Routledge.
- Ghosh, Amitav. (2008). *Sea of Poppies*. London: Penguin.
- Vertovec, Steven. 1997. "Three Meanings of Diaspora: Exemplified among South Asian Religions". *Diaspora*, Vol. 6 (3): 277-330.

Unit III: This unit will equip students with an understanding of the Indian diaspora's economic impact, particularly through remittances and investments in India. It will enable them to analyze how the diaspora engages in Indian politics and influences international relations. (Teaching time: 18 lectures 6 weeks)

- Khadria, Binod. (1999). *The Migration of Knowledge Workers: Second-generation Effects of India's Brain Drain*. New Delhi: Sage.
- Shain, Yossi, and Aharon Barth. (2003). "Diasporas and International Relations Theory." *International Organization*, 57(3), pp. 449–479.
- Kapur, Devesh. (2014). *Diaspora, Development, and Democracy: The Domestic Impact of International Migration from India*. Princeton University Press
- Parekh, Bhikhu, Gurhpal Singh and Steven Vertovec (eds.). 2003. *Culture and Economy in the Indian Diaspora*. London: Routledge. [Introduction]

Unit 4: This unit will familiarize students with the challenges faced by diasporic communities. Students will critically examine issues of citizenship, multiculturalism, and identity politics in host nations while understanding contemporary challenges such as xenophobia, racism, and social exclusion. This unit will also provide insights into the policies shaping diaspora engagement and their implications for global migration governance.

- Raj, Dhooлека Sarhadi. (2003). *Where Are You From?: Middle-Class Migrants in the Modern World*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Varadarajan, Latha. (2010). *The Domestic Abroad: Diasporas in International Relations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Clarke, C et al. (1990). *South Asians Overseas: Migration and Ethnicity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, from time to time.