In 1947, Pakistan and India came into being as nation-states: Independence and the great trauma of Partition came hand-in-hand. We will study historians’ accounts of this process, but for the most part we will examine novels, short stories, poetry, and films that illuminate the impact of Partition and Independence on communities and individuals in South Asia. In doing so, we will learn about the continuing role of Partition in shaping contemporary South Asia. We will also think about the power of literary texts in making available to us the full dimensions of the traumas that are precipitated when the inauguration of new nations ruptures previously existing communities.

There will be three writing assignments for this course. The first will be a short paper (1200 words) based on a class presentation, and due one week after the presentation. The second will be a book review (1200 words) of a book on the Partition of British India. You will decide on a book to review in consultation with the instructor; this review will be due on _________. The final assignment will be a longer research paper (2500 words) in which you will reflect upon one or more of the major themes explored in the course, and you will engage with several texts appropriate to your essay. The topic of this essay must be decided in consultation with the instructor by (which means that you will have done at least some work, and put together a bibliography, on this topic by then). This essay will be due on _________. All your written work is to be submitted by email (ideally as a .docx attachment, so that I can comment using TrackChanges).

Your grade for the semester will be based on the following components:
Presentation and paper 1: 25%
Book review: 25%
Final essay: 50%
Booklist:
The following books are on order at the Penn Book Center, 130 S. 34th Street:


Syllabus:

8/29: Introduction; screening of “Division of Hearts (directed by Sati Khanna and Peter Chappell; DVD 008640) and “The Little Terrorist” (directed by Ashwin Kumar; DVD 015377).


9/10, 9/12 Other testimonies and issues: Urvashi Butalia, *The Other Side of Silence*.


Jason Francisco, “In the Heat of Fratricide: The Literature of India’s Partition Burning Freshly,” *The Annual Of Urdu Literature*


Alok Bhalla, “Dance of Grotesque Masks: A Critical Reading of Manto’s ‘1919 ki Ek Bat’,” *The Annual Of Urdu Literature*


10/1, 10/3 Historiographical difficulties: Gyanendra Pandey, *Remembering Partition: Violence, Nationalism and History in India*, pp. 1-91.


10/8  Review

10/15, 10/17 Bapsi Sidhwa, *Cracking India*; discussion of Deepa Mehta’s *Earth*. 
[PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU VIEW DEEPA MEHTA’S FILM *EARTH* (on reserve in the library)]


Screening of Amar Kanwar, *A Season Outside* (documentary; 30 minutes)

11/5, 11/7  Screening and discussion of Sabiha Sumar’s *Khamosh Pani* (105 minutes)

11/12, 11/14 Amitav Ghosh, *The Shadow Lines*


11/26  Review

12/3, 12/5  Partitions today II: Screening and discussion of Rakesh Sharma’s documentary, *Final Solution*.

12/10 Class presentations of final projects. Each student will bring to class 250-500 words of prose describing the project, and a bibliography that lists all primary and secondary materials.