



Lahore University of Management Sciences

Bulleh Shah – the poet-rebel Spring 2017

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Course URL (if any)	

Course Basics			
Credit Hours	4		
Lecture(s)	28	Duration	14 weeks
Recitation/Lab (per week)		Duration	
Tutorial (per week)		Duration	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Bulleh Shah (1680-1757) lived in the 18th century in Punjab. His bold and passionate verses have been etched indelibly in South Asia's popular memory as well as intellectual history. Both profound and prolific, his *kafis* discuss issues ranging from Sufism to the Mughal agrarian system, from caste in India to the undying love of Heer-Ranjha.

This course offers an intimate exploration of Bulleh Shah's poetry. Through close, directed readings of the text, the course will aim towards an in-depth understanding of a literary giant who stands at the centre of the Punjabi poetic tradition, both in terms of form and chronology.

Our sessions will be dedicated to answering (and perhaps asking anew) Bullah's iconic question: "*ki jaanan mein kon?*" through an interdisciplinary approach that situates him within the debates around spirituality, politics, society and organized religion in his time. The course is divided into themes and will benefit students of all shades – providing an insight into the literature, history, politics and sociology of Punjab through the ages.

COURSE PREREQUISITE(S)

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COURSE OBJECTIVES



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•	To help students begin Punjabi language learning and reading through Bulleh Shah’s poetry
•	To introduce them to the themes, historical context and perspective of his poetry
•	To allow them to connect and compare the Punjabi poetic tradition with other traditions in the sub-continent

Learning Outcomes

	<p>By the end of the course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read, understand and interpret a Bulleh Shah kafi • Describe in detail the salient themes of his poetry • Build an in-depth understanding of the kafi form, in terms of both music and poetic form • Outline the social, political and economic conditions he lived through
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Grading Breakup and Policy

Response assignments 15%
Class Participation: 5%
Attendance: 10%
Paper 1: 20%
Project 20%
Paper 2: 30%

Examination Detail

Midterm Exam	none
Final Exam	none

COURSE OVERVIEW

Week	Topics	Recommended Readings	Objectives/ Application
•	Introduction – course outline Aao ral mil kafi parhiay (musical session)		



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•	Biographical and historical sketch	Alam, Muzaffar, <i>The crisis of empire in Mughal North India 1707-48</i>	
•	Frameworks: pushing Sufism	Annemarie Schimmel, <i>Mystical dimensions of Islam</i> Najm Hosein Syed, <i>Recurrent patterns in Punjabi poetry</i>	
•	“Hindu nahi, na musalman” – Organised religion and the orthodoxy	“Hindu nahi na musalman,” “ishq di navion navi bahaar,”	
•	Cont.: Organised religion and the orthodoxy	“Raateen jaagain, karain ibadat” “Ki karda ni, ki karda,”	
•	“Iko alif tere darkaar” – knowledge and power	“Iko alif tere darkaar,” “Ik nuqtay vich gal mukdi ae,”	
•	Cont.: knowledge and power	“Ki jaanan mein kon,” “ki jaanan mein koi ve arreya,” “Hun mein kon kahaunga,”	
•	“Ultay hor zamanay ayay” – Politics in Indian society	“Ultay hor zamanay ayay,” “Mein choorhaetree haan,”	
•	Cont.: Politics in Indian society	“Paaya hai mein paaya hai,” “Ab hum gum hoay,”	
•	“Ranjha Ranjha kardi ni mein” – Divine love	“Tere ishq nachaiyaan,” “Mein waisaan jogi de naal,”	
•	Cont.: divine love	“Gharyaali deo nikaal,” “Mann atkeyo shaam sundar soan,”	
•	Bullah in Punjabi culture: shrines, <i>qawwali</i> and popular spirituality	Singh, Virinder, <i>Spiritual music of Punjab</i>	
•	Bullah in pop culture: of ‘rock n roll jihad’ and Coke Studio	Guest lecture: Rakae Jamil	
•	Project presentations & field trip to Bulleh Shah’s shrine		

Textbook(s)/Supplementary Readings

Syed, Hosein, Najm, *Recurrent Patterns in Punjabi Poetry*
 Ghaffar, Muzaffar, *Bulleh Shah Within Reach* (Volumes I, II)
 Qadri, Asma, *Punjabi shaeri da sinff wayrwa*
 Ramakrishna, Lajwanti, *Punjabi Sufi Poets*
 Duggal, Kartar Singh and Sekhon, Sant Singh, *A history of Punjabi literature*