Bulleh Shah – the poet-rebel
Spring 2017

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Office Hours: TBA
Email: sara.kazmi@lums.edu.pk

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)

• none

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 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

Grading Breakup and Policy

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

Examination Detail

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<tr>
<th>Midterm Exam</th>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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COURSE OVERVIEW

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Recommended Readings</th>
<th>Objectives/Application</th>
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| •    | Introduction – course outline  
Aao ral mil kafi parhiay (musical session) |                    |                        |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Textbook(s)/Supplementary Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syed, Hosein, Najm, <em>Recurrent Patterns in Punjabi Poetry</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghaffar, Muzaffar, <em>Bulleh Shah Within Reach</em> (Volumes I, II)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qadri, Asma, <em>Punjabi shaeri da sinff wayrwa</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramakrishna, Lajwanti, <em>Punjabi Sufi Poets</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Duggal, Kartar Singh and Sekhon, Sant Singh, <em>A history of Punjabi literature</em></td>
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<tr>
<th>Topical Components</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Texts/Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biographical and historical sketch</td>
<td>Alam, Muzaffar, <em>The crisis of empire in Mughal North India 1707-48</em></td>
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</table>
| Frameworks: pushing Sufism | Annemarie Schimmel, *Mystical dimensions of Islam*  
Najm Hosein Syed, *Recurrent patterns in Punjabi poetry* |
| “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, qawwali and popular spirituality | Singh, Virinder, *Spiritual music of Punjab* |
| 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 |