Syllabus History 142, 4 credits

HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA TO THE PRESENT

FALL 2007-2008
4:00-5:15 TR 1641 George L. Mosse Humanities Building

Instructor: Professor André Wink
Office hours: 12:20-1:20 W, 3:00-4:00 R
Office: Department of History, Humanities #4133; phone 263-5092
Mailbox: Humanities #4003; email: awink@wisc.edu
Teaching assistant: Nick Abbott

This course presents a survey of the history of South Asia from the earliest beginnings to the present, including the major religious traditions of Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam in so far as these are relevant for the historical development of the subcontinent.

Textbook


Course requirements: attendance of lectures and films; readings as specified in this syllabus; one mid-term and a final exam; one essay of 5-7 pages (double spaced) on a take-home question.

Exam dates: mid-term October 23; take home essay question November 1; hand in essay November 15; final exam December 17, 7:45 AM

Lecture 1: September 4

Introduction

Lecture 2: September 6

The ecological setting

Read: pp. ix-xii, 1-12
Lecture 3: September 11
Geography and history

Lecture 4: September 13
Pre-historical origins: the Indus Valley (Harappa) civilization, the Aryans and the transition to Vedic India
Read: chapters 2 & 3 (pp. 13-34)

Lecture 5: September 18
The Aryan conquest of North India and the rise of Buddhism and Jainism
Read: chapter 4 (pp. 35-52)

Lecture 6: September 20
The Maurya empire (326-184 B. C.)
Read: chapter 5 (pp. 53-67)

Lecture 7: September 25
South Asia between the Maurya and the Gupta empires (184 B. C.-320 A. D.)
Read: chapter 6 (pp. 68-85)

Lecture 8: September 27
The classical age: the imperial Guptas (ca. 320-550 A. D.) and Harsha (606-647 A. D.)
Read: chapter 7 (pp. 86-104)
Lecture 9: October 2
The rise and early expansion of Islam (622-962 A. D.)
Read: chapter 8, pp. 105-107

Lecture 10: October 4
The expansion of Islam in South Asia from 962 A. D. to 1556 A. D.
Read: chapter 8, pp. 107-125

Lecture 11: October 9
The Mughal empire under Akbar (1556-1605 A. D.)
Read: chapter 9 (pp. 126-134)

Lecture 12: October 11
European mercantile expansion in India and the Indian Ocean in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries
Read: chapter 10 (pp. 135-147)

Lecture 13: October 16
The Mughal empire under Jahangir (1605-1627 A. D.), Shah Jahan (1627-1658 A. D.), and Aurangzeb (1658-1707 A. D.)
Read: chapter 11 (pp. 148-168)

Lecture 14: October 18
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October 23

MID-TERM EXAM

Lecture 15: October 25

India between empires: the eighteenth century
Read: chapters 12 & 13 (pp. 169-199)

Lecture 16: October 30

The expansion of the British Company Raj (1793-1848 A. D.)
Read: chapter 14 (pp. 200-223)

Lecture 17: November 1

The Mutiny of 1857/58 A. D. and the transition to Crown Rule
Read: chapters 15 & 16 (pp. 224-246)

Lecture 18: November 6

The beginnings of Indian nationalism (1885-1905 A. D.)
Read: chapters 17 & 18 (pp. 247-272)

Lecture 19: November 8

Film (with discussion): ’Living together and apart: Hindus and Muslims in South Asia’

Lecture 20: November 13
Indian nationalism and reform to the end of the First World War (1905-1919 A. D.)
Read: chapters 19 & 20 (pp. 273-300)

Lecture 21: November 15
Toward independence (1920-1939 A. D.)
Read: chapter 21 (pp. 301-329)

Lecture 22: November 20
Film (with discussion): ‘India: Defying the Crown’

Lecture 23: November 27
The Second World War and its impact on India (1939-1946 A. D.)
Read: chapter 22 (pp. 330-353)

Lecture 24: November 29
India under Jawaharlal Nehru (1947-1964 A. D.)
Read: chapter 23 (pp. 354-373)

Lecture 25: December 4
South Asia between 1964 A. D. and 1977 A. D.
Read: chapter 24 (pp. 374-406)

Lecture 26: December 6
South Asia between 1977 A. D. and 1997 A. D.

Read: chapter 25 (pp. 407-450)

**Lecture 27: December 11**

The most dangerous place in the world? (Mis)understanding South Asia today

Read: chapter 26 (pp. 451-470)

**Lecture 28: December 13**

Film (with discussion): ‘Afghanistan: exporting the Taliban revolution’

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