

SYLLABUS HISTORY 142, 4 credits

HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA TO THE PRESENT

FALL 2011-2012

4:00-5:15 TR 1111 George L. Mosse Humanities Building

Instructor: Professor André Wink

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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

S. Wolpert, *A New History of India* (Eighth edition, New York, 2009).

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. Final grade: mid-term exam 35%; essay 30%; final exam 35%.

Exam dates: mid-term October 20; take home essay question November 3; hand in essay November 17; final exam December 23, 12:25 PM.

Lecture 1: September 6

Introduction

Lecture 2: September 8

The ecological setting

Read: chapter 1

Lecture 3: September 8

Pre-historical origins: the Indus culture, the Aryan age, and Vedic India (ca. 2500-1000 B. C.)

Read: chapter 2 & 3

Lecture 4: September 13

The Aryan conquest of North India and the rise of Buddhism and Jainism (ca. 1000-450 B. C.)

Read: chapter 4

Lecture 5: September 15

The Mauryan empire (326-184 B. C.)

Read: chapter 5

Lecture 6: September 20

South Asia between the Mauryan and Gupta empires (ca. 184 B. C.-A. D. 320)

Read: chapter 6

Lecture 7: September 22

The classical age: the imperial Guptas and Harsha (A. D. 320- ca. 700)

Read: chapter 7

Lecture 8: September 27

The rise and early expansion of Islam (ca. 711-962)

Read: chapter 8, pp. 108-111

Lecture 9: September 29

The expansion of Islam in South Asia (962-1556)

Read: chapter 8, pp. 111-129

Lecture 10: October 4

The Mughal empire under Akbar (1556-1605)

Read: chapter 9

Lecture 11: October 6

European mercantile expansion in India and the Indian Ocean (1498-1669)

Read: chapter 10

Lecture 12: October 11

The Mughal empire under Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Aurangzeb (1605-1707)

Read: chapter 11

Lecture 13: October 13

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Lecture 14: October 20

MID-TERM EXAM

Lecture 15: October 25

FILM: 'Living together and apart: Hindus and Muslims in South Asia'

Lecture 16: October 27

India in the eighteenth century

Read: chapters 12 & 13

Lecture 17: November 1

The expansion of British Company Raj (1793-1848)

Read: chapter 14

Lecture 18: November 3

The Mutiny of 1857/58 and the transition to Crown Rule

Read: chapters 15 & 16

Lecture 19: November 8

The beginnings of Indian nationalism (1885-1905)

Read: chapters 17 & 18

Lecture 20: November 10

Indian nationalism and reform to the end of the First World War (1905-1919)

Read: chapters 19 & 20

Lecture 21: November 15

Toward independence (1920-1939)

Read: chapter 21

Lecture 22: November 17

FILM: 'India: defying the Crown'

Lecture 23: November 22

The Second World War and its impact on India (1939-1946)

Read: chapter 22

Lecture 24: November 29

India under Jawaharlal Nehru (1947-1964)

Read: chapter 23

Lecture 25: December 1

South Asia between 1964 and 1977

Read: chapter 24

Lecture 26: December 6

South Asia between 1977 and 1997

Read: chapters 25, 26 & 27

Lecture 27: December 8

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

Read: chapters 28 & 29

Lecture 28: December 13

FILM: 'Afghanistan: exporting the Taliban revolution'

December 15

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