

**HISTORY 450: THE MAKING OF MODERN SOUTH ASIA**  
**(OFFICIALLY LISTED AS MODERN INDIA 1860-1990: THE AGE OF GANDHI)**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10am-12pm

History 450, Spring 2011  
Humanities Room 1217  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00-5:15pm

**Course Description:**

Please note the change in the title of this course which has been listed officially as *Modern India 1860-1990, the Age of Gandhi*. India, however, is but one nation-state within South Asia a region that is home to over one-fifths of the world's population. Through an exploration of the political, social and economic history of this region from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, students in this course will learn about the Making of Modern South Asia. Expanding the chronological and geographical focus, as reflected in the title, allows greater historical depth and a comparative perspective from which we can understand contemporary South Asia. Given the diversity of people, languages, histories and states in this region, we cannot hope to exhaustively cover all that there is to know about South Asia. Instead we will use several important themes and events as an entry point from which to explore the history of South Asia. These include colonial rule, anti-colonial movements, nationalism and the creation of modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the post-colonial nation state, social movements, religious identity and economic development. Through readings, lectures and discussions every week, I hope that students will take away from this course an understanding of the successes, failures and challenges faced by the people and states of Modern South Asia today from a historical perspective.

**Course Assignments:**

- 1) Two in-class map quizzes
- 2) Three surprise in-class quizzes on the assigned readings
- 3) One 5-page paper on any one of the books listed at the end of the syllabus due on the date indicated. (Students are required to sign up in class on 25<sup>th</sup> January indicating what their book preference is)
- 4) One mid-term take-home exam (questions will be distributed in class on 3/8 and are due in my mailbox by 5pm on 3/11)
- 5) One final take-home exam (questions will be distributed in class on 5/6 and are due in my mailbox on 5/10)
- 6) Graduate students may opt to write a 20-page paper **in lieu** of the mid-term and final take-home exams. They must inform me by 2/17 if they want to exercise this option.

**Evaluation:**

Class participation and attendance: 15%  
In-class quizzes: 15%  
Short paper: 15%  
Mid-term exam: 25%  
Final exam: 30%

Unexplained absences taken without the instructor's prior permission and failure to submit assignments on time will result in a deduction from the overall letter grade.

**Readings:**

All readings listed in the syllabus are required readings unless otherwise stated. Short articles and chapters have been uploaded on the learn@uw course website. Students will also find three maps on the course website that can serve as study guides for the map quizzes. Journal articles are can be accessed online through MadCat. Two books are available for purchase from the university book store:

Barbara Metcalf, *A Concise History of India*  
Bashrat Peer, *Curfewed Night*

**Week I**

1/18 Making of Modern South Asia: Introduction  
1/20 The Mughal Empire: An Overview

Readings: B. Metcalf, *A Concise History of India* ch 1  
Amartya Sen, *Argumentative Indian* pp.287-293

**Week II**

1/25 India between Empires  
1/27 Company Raj

Readings: B. Metcalf, *A Concise History of India*, ch 2, ch 3 till p.80  
C.A. Bayly, *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire*, ch 1&3  
\*\*Robert Travers, *Ideology and Empire in the Eighteenth Century*, introduction\*\* (only required for graduate students and students taking the course for 4 credits)

**\*\*Sign up for book review on 1/25\*\***

**Week III**

2/1 Colonial Reform and Rebellion  
2/3 Discussion & Map Quiz (India 1860)

Readings B. Metcalf, *A Concise History of India*, ch 3 (80-90), ch 4 (till p. 103)

Lata Mani, "Contentious Traditions: The Debate on Sati in Colonial India" in K. Sangari and S. Vaid (eds), *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History*  
Gautam Bhadra, "Four Rebels of 1857" in R. Guha and G. Spivak (eds) *Selected Subaltern Studies*  
Nicholas Dirks, "From Little King to Landlord" in Nicholas Dirks (ed) *Colonialism and Culture*

#### **Week IV**

2/8 From Company Rule to Crown Raj

2/10 Indentured Labor and the Making of a Diaspora

Readings: B. Metcalf, *A Concise History of India* ch 4 (pp.103-122)

Mridu Rai, *Hindu Rulers, Muslim Subjects*, ch 1 & 2

B. Cohn, "Census, Social Structure and Objectification in South Asia" in B. Cohn, *Anthropologist amongst the Historians*

Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons*, ch 3

#### **Week V**

2/15 Anti-Colonial Critique before World War I

2/17 Gandhian Nationalism

Readings: B. Metcalf, *A Concise History of India* ch 5, ch 6 (till p.185)

P. Chatterjee, *Nation and its Fragments*, pp. 1-13

Judith Brown, *Gandhi's Rise to Power*, chs 2 & 9, retrospect & conclusion

\*\*Sugata Bose, "Nation as Mother" in S. Bose and A. Jalal (eds) *Nationalism, Democracy and Development*\*\* (only required for graduate students and students taking the course for 4 credits)

**\*\*2/17 last day for graduate students to opt to write a long paper in lieu of take-home exams\*\***

#### **Week VI**

2/22 Region, Religion and the Making of a Nation

2/24 Challenges to Gandhi (Rebels against the Raj)

Readings: B. Metcalf, *A Concise History of India*, pp.185-210

Ayesha Jalal, "Exploding Communalism: The Politics of Muslim Identity in South Asia" in S. Bose and A. Jalal (eds) *Nationalism, Democracy and Development*

Leonard Gordon, *Brothers against the Raj*, ch 9

Neeti Nair, "Bhagat Singh as 'Satyagrahi': Limits to Non-Violence in Late Colonial India", *Modern Asian Studies*, 43 (3), 2009

## **Week VII**

**3/1** Independence and Partition

**3/3** Discussion

Readings: B. Metcalf, *A Concise History of India* pp.211-230

Asim Roy, "The High Politics of India's Partition: The Revisionist Perspective", in *Modern Asian Studies*, 24(2), 1990

Ram Guha, *India after Gandhi*, ch 5

## **Week VIII**

**3/8** Review class. Mid term take-home will be handed out in class

**3/10** No Class – work on mid terms

## **MID-TERM EXAM DUE BY 5PM ON 3/11**

## **Week IX No Class: Spring Break**

## **Week X**

**3/22** Post-colonial Nation State: Nehru's India and Congress Hegemony

**3/24** Nuclear South Asia: Guest Lecture by Professor Vipin Narang, Department of Political Science, MIT

Readings: B. Metcalf, *A Concise History of India* ch 8 (till p.251)

Sumit Sarkar, "Indian Democracy: The Historical Inheritance" in Atul Kohli (ed) *Success of India's Democracy*

Rajni Kothari "The Congress 'System' in India" in Z. Hasan (ed) *Parties and Party Politics in India*, ch 1

Vipin Narang, "Posturing for Peace? Pakistan's Nuclear Postures and South Asian Stability" in *International Security*, 34(3)2009

available: <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/isec.2010.34.3.38>

\*\* Ayesha Jalal, *Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia*, ch 1\*\* (only required for graduate students and students taking the course for 4 credits)

## **Week XI**

**3/29** Post-colonial India: The Regional Imperative and the Decline of the Congress

**3/31** No Class (AAS Conference)

Readings: B. Metcalf, *A Concise History of India*, pp. 252-281

Zoya Hasan (ed) *Parties and Party Politics in India* chs 3, &15

\*\*B.R. Tomlinson, "Historical Roots of Indian Poverty: Issues in the Economic and Social History of Modern South Asia,1880-1960", *Modern Asian Studies*, 22 (1), 1988\*\*(only required for graduate students and students taking the course for 4 credits)

## **Week XII**

4/5 Post-colonial Pakistan

4/7 Challenges to the Nation State: Emergence of Bangladesh

Readings: Ayesha Jalal, *Democracy and Authoritarianism* ch 2

Ayesha Jalal, *State of Martial Rule* ch 2, 3, 6

Owen Bennett Jones, *Pakistan: Eye of the Storm*, ch 5

## **Week XIII**

4/12 Challenges to the Nation State: Kashmir & Punjab

4/14 Discussion and Map Quiz (Contemporary South Asia)

Readings: Bashrat Peer, *Curfewed Night* (entire book)

Mark Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God*, ch 5

## **Week XIV**

4/19 Caste and Politics in India

4/21 Ram Ke Naam

Readings: Susan Bayly, *Caste, Society and Politics in India* chs 6 & 7

Myron Weiner, "The Struggle for Equality", in Atul Kohli (ed) *Success of India's Democracy*

C. Jaffrelot, *India's Silent Revolution*, Introduction, ch 10, Conclusion

C. Jaffrelot (ed) *Hindu Nationalism: A Reader*, ch 16 pp 279-298

\*\*Sumantra Bose, "Hindu Nationalism and the Crisis of the Indian State" in S. Bose and A. Jalal (eds) *Nationalism, Democracy and Development*\*\* (only required for graduate students and students taking the course for 4 credits)

## **Week XV**

4/26 Hindu Nationalism, Diaspora and Development

4/28 Guest lecture by Dr Mathangi Krishnamurthy, Mellon Post-doctoral Scholar, UW-Madison (assigned reading for this lecture TBA)

Readings: Amrita Basu, "The Dialectics of Hindu Nationalism" in Kohli (ed) *Success of India's Democracy*

C. Jaffrelot, *India's Silent Revolution*, ch 13

Biju Mathew and Vijay Prashad, "The Protean forms of Yankee Hindutva" in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 23(3), 2001

C. Jaffrelot (ed), *Hindu Nationalism: A Reader*, chs 19&20 pp 342-369

**Please complete the online student evaluation for this course**

**Week XVI**

5/3 South Asia in the Twenty First Century: Successes, Failures and Challenges

5/6 Review

Readings: Amartya Sen and Jean Dreze, *India: Development and Participation* chs 1&9

**Book Options and Due Dates for Short-Paper:** Please indicate your preference on the sign-up sheet circulated in class on 25<sup>th</sup> January

Option I: William Dalrymple, *The Last Mughal*, Paper due on 2/15

Option II: Urvashi Butalia, *Other Side of Silence*, Paper due on 3/22

Option III: Rohinton Mistry, *Such a Long Journey* **OR** *A Fine Balance*, Paper due on 4/14

Option IV: Aravind Adiga, *The White Tiger* **OR** Vikas Swarup, *Q&A: A Novel*, Paper due on 3/5