



Lahore University of Management Sciences

HIST 125 – Introduction to South Asian History Spring 2018

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Course URL (if any)	

Course Basics				
Credit Hours	4			
Lecture(s)	2/week		Duration	110 min
Recitation/Lab (per week)			Duration	
Tutorial (per week)			Duration	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course, co-taught via Skype between members of the faculty of history in the Jindal Global Law School, and the Lahore University of Management Sciences, shall offer a perspective on the diverging views of South Asia's past in India and Pakistan. We will examine different episodes of importance to the nation states of India and Pakistan, and analyse how they are differently treated in India and Pakistan. At the same time, we shall also examine the commonalities in the histories of the two countries, and study figures, events, and movements that continue to have cultural and political significance in ways that transcend the current national boundaries.

We will begin with a discussion on the historical, political and geographical settings of South Asia from early ancient period, including a discussion of important historical events, such as the development of trade relations along what is now known as the 'Silk Route', and the history of the Indus Valley Civilisation. These developments have an important bearing on the present day politics of both India and Pakistan, but are nonetheless remembered very differently in both countries.

The ascendancy of Muslim political authority in South Asia and its dynastic continuity from 11th century onwards is discussed within the prism of various social and religious factors in order to offer a more nuanced understanding about the complexity of historical processes shaping the course of South Asia during this period. The trade link between South Asia and European trading companies serves as a point of entry from which to discuss South Asian history in a broader context and link it with the developments taking place in other parts of the world. An important component of this course deals with the territorial domination of European powers and the administrative, economic, and social changes brought about by it. Again, this will serve as a starting point for an important conceptual discussion on colonialism, Orientalism and modernity within the context of South Asia and beyond.



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Towards the end, the period of resistance against British colonial rule will be studied within the framework of discussion on such broader issues as gender, caste, communalism, movements for religious reform, rising influence of socialism and the impact of World Wars. Finally, we will also cover the trajectories of important South Asian politicians and moral leaders, including Jinnah, Sayyed Ahmad Khan, Gandhi, Tagore, Bhagat Singh, Nehru and Liaquat Ali Khan, whose individual trajectories transcended the nation state, but who have been selectively remembered in both countries after 1947.

This course will offer an exciting opportunity to interact with students and faculty from India, and to discover the commonalities, as well as differences, in how we remember our shared heritage. For this purpose, students from India and Pakistan will work in groups to prepare presentations and the final term paper. In addition, to make the course more interactive, every session will cover a controversy relating to a historical figure or event. We would share a relevant article on a blog (or Facebook page for this course) on which students will have to offer their comments or critique the comments made by fellow students or members of general public. The idea is to make this blog or Facebook page open to public so that it can serve as an interface between general public and academia.

✓ Objectives and Learning Outcomes

- The purpose is not simply to add to factual information of the students about South Asian history but also to help them critically evaluate its various dynamics and processes.
- Students will be familiarized with key primary sources and academic studies on different aspects of South Asian history.
- To inculcate a critical ability among the students with which to read and analyze texts on history.
- To develop an ability among the students to challenge meta-narratives of history.
- To help students understand the importance of 'history from below'.

✓ Grading Components

- Class Participation and Attendance: 10%
- Presentation: 15%
- Quizzes (two before mid-term): 20%
- Written Assignment: 30%
- Blogs (five reviews (books/films) of 300 words each): 25%

✓ Course Outline

1. Introduction to South Asian history; themes, concepts, issues and narratives
2. Background to ancient Indian history: From Pre-history to Indus valley civilization

Readings: Irfan Habib, *People's History of India 1: Prehistory* (New Delhi: Tulika Books, 2007); D. D. Kosambi, *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History* (Bombay: Popular Prakashan, 2012), pp. 53-79.



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Primary Text: A. L. Basham et al, ed. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Vol. I* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1958), pp. 5-16.

Controversy: Aryan Invasion

3. Background to ancient Indian history: From Vedic to Early Medieval Period

Readings: Irfan Habib and Vijay Kumar Thakur, *People's History of India 3: The Vedic Age* (New Delhi: Tulika Books, 2007); Krishna Mohan Shrivastava, *People's History of India 3: The Vedic Age* (New Delhi: Tulika Books, 2007).

Primary Text: A. L. Basham et al, ed. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Vol. I* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1958), pp. 340-5.

Controversy: Myth and History

4. The South Indian Empires: Background and history

Readings: Noboru Karashima, ed. *A Concise History of South India* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2014), pp. 40-80; Satish Chandra, *History of Medieval India (800-1700)* (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2014), pp. 26-35.

Primary Text: A. L. Basham et al, ed. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Vol. I* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1958), pp. 345-53.

Controversy: Dravidian exceptionalism

5. Social and political hierarchies on the eve of Arab invasion; transnational connections.

Readings: Jamal Malik, *Islam in South Asia: A Short History* (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2012), pp. 29-65.

Primary Text: Mirza Kalich Beg, trans. *The Chachnamah: An Ancient History of Sind* (Karachi: Scinde Classics, 1979), pp. 1-10.

Controversy: Saying *Labbaik* to Afiya Siddiqi

6. The Delhi Sultanate (I)

Readings: Satish Chandra, *History of Medieval India (800-1700)* (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2014), pp. 76-91.

Primary Text: Dr. Edward C. Sachau, trans. *Alberuni's India: An Account of the Religion, Philosophy, Literature, Geography, Chronology, Astronomy, Customs, Laws and Astrology of India about AD 1030, Vol. I & II* (Lahore: Sang-e-Meel Publications, 2007), pp. 52-59.

Controversy: The massacre of Hindus



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7. The Delhi Sultanate (II)

Readings: Satish Chandra, *History of Medieval India (800-1700)* (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2014), pp. 92-117.

Primary Text: A. L. Basham et al, ed. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Vol. I* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1958), pp. 354-8.

Controversy: Living together separately?

8. Islamicate South Asia; theories of religious conversion; South Asia in a broader regional context till the 16th century.

Readings: Marshall Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam: Vol. I* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977), pp. 56-60; Richard Eaton, "Temple Desecration and Indo-Muslim States", in: Richard Eaton, *Essays on Islam and Indian History* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2004), pp. 94-132.

Primary Text: A. L. Basham et al, ed. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Vol. I* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1958), pp. 410-28.

Controversy: Demolishing the Babri Mosque

9. The Mughal Empire (I)

Readings: Michael H. Fisher, *A Short History of the Mughal Empire* (London: I. B. Tauris, 2016), pp. 15-69.

Primary Text: Annette S. Beveridge, trans. *Babur-Nama* (Lahore: Sang-e-Meel Publications, 1987), pp. 478-88.

Controversy: The 'Muslimness' of Mughal Empire

10. The Mughal Empire (II)

Readings: Michael H. Fisher, *A Short History of the Mughal Empire* (London: I. B. Tauris, 2016), pp. 73-206.

Primary Text: A. L. Basham et al, ed. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Vol. I* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1958), pp. 430-7.

Controversy: Akbar's Religion

11. Theories of the "Mughal Decline".

Readings: Satish Chandra, *History of Medieval India (800-1700)* (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2014), pp. 328-78.



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Primary Text: A. L. Basham et al, ed. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Vol. I* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1958), pp. 441-8.

Controversy: Choosing between Aurangzeb and Dara Shikoh

12. Muslim Rule in Deccan

Readings: Jamal Malik, *Islam in South Asia: A Short History* (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2012), pp. 119-48; Richard M. Eaton, *A Social History of the Deccan, 1300-1761* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), 9-58.

Primary Text: Rachel Fell McDermott et al, eds. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Volume II, Modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 8-10.

Controversy: The Muslim 'centre'

13. The Legacy of Muslim Rule in India

Readings: Satish Chandra, *History of Medieval India (800-1700)* (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2014), pp. 297-327.

Primary Text: A. L. Basham et al, ed. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Vol. I* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1958), pp. 511-20.

Controversy: Fuzzy identities

14. The 18th Century in the Indian history.

Readings: J. S. Grewal, *The Sikhs of the Punjab* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990), pp. 82-98; Jamal Malik, *Islam in South Asia: A Short History* (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2012), pp. 189-233.

Primary Text: Rachel Fell McDermott et al, eds. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Volume II, Modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 31-46.

Controversy: Decline of the centre or flourishing of the periphery?

15. The arrival of European traders; Portuguese and British colonies; Indian Ocean trade network.

Readings: M. N. Pearson, *The Portuguese in India* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987), pp. 5-39; Jonathan Gil Harris, *The First Firangis* (New Delhi: Aleph Book Company, 2015), pp. 255-79.



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Primary Text: Rachel Fell McDermott et al, eds. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Volume II, Modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 21-6.

Controversy: Colonialism as unplanned revolution

16. British expansion in South Asia

Readings: Irfan Habib, *A People's History of India 25: Indian Economy under Early British Rule, 1757-1857* (New Delhi: Tulika Books, 2013), pp. 25-61.

Primary Text: Rachel Fell McDermott et al, eds. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Volume II, Modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 11-20.

Controversy: Industrial Revolution and Indian Economy

17. Orientalism I

Readings: Moustafa Bayoumi and Andrew Rubin, eds. *The Edward Said Reader* (London: Granta Books, 2001), pp. 63-93.

Primary Text: Rachel Fell McDermott et al, eds. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Volume II, Modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 63-4.

Controversy: Knowledge as intellectual curiosity and instrument of power

18. Orientalism II

Readings: Bernard Cohen, *Colonialism and its Forms of Knowledge: The British in India* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1996), pp. 57-75.

Primary Text: Rachel Fell McDermott et al, eds. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Volume II, Modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 68-72.

Controversy: Alternative epistemologies

19. 1857; modes of resistance to colonialism

Biswamoy Pati, ed. *The 1857 Rebellion* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2011), pp. xiii-xliii.

Primary Text: Rachel Fell McDermott et al, eds. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Volume II, Modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 98-116.



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Controversy: War of Independence, Jihad and Mutiny

20. 'Response' to modernity and colonialism; religious reform movements; debates on women.

Readings: Sumit Sarkar and Tanika Sarkar, eds. *Women and Social Reform in India: Volume I* (New Delhi: Permanent Black, 2011), pp. 54-82 and 113-44.

Primary Text: Rachel Fell McDermott et al, eds. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Volume II, Modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 122-36.

Controversy: Can the Subaltern speak?

21. Outlines of colonial political hierarchy and administration.

Readings: Ian Talbot, *India and Pakistan* (London: Arnold, 2000), pp. 9-31; B. B. Misra, *The Central Administration of the East India Company, 1773-1834* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1959), pp. 17-50.

Primary Text: "Secretary of State to the Government of India, 8 April 1869", in: C. H. Philips, ed. *The Evolution of India and Pakistan, 1858-1947* (London: Oxford University Press, 1964), pp. 539-41

Controversy: White man's burden

22. Beginnings of the nationalist movement in India; communalism; role of press and Western education

Readings: Sumit Sarkar, *Modern India, 1885-1947* (New Delhi: Macmillan, 2004), pp. 65-100.

Primary Text: "Bande Mataram, 1882", in: C. H. Philips, ed. *The Evolution of India and Pakistan, 1858-1947* (London: Oxford University Press, 1964), pp. 117-18; "G.K. Gokhale's Presidential Speech, 27 December 1905", in: C. H. Philips, ed. *The Evolution of India and Pakistan, 1858-1947* (London: Oxford University Press, 1964), pp. 156-60.

Controversy: Whose nation/nationalism?

23. South Asia during the 20th century; Colonial economy, society and politics; the two World Wars; the influence of Communism on literature and politics.

Readings: Sumit Sarkar, *Modern India, 1885-1947* (New Delhi: Macmillan, 2004), pp.165-237.



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Primary Text: Rachel Fell McDermott et al, eds. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Volume II, Modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 250-68.

Controversy: Two circles of Indian Muslim life

24. The Rise of Gandhi

Readings: Bipan Chandra et al, *India's Struggle for Independence* (New Delhi: Penguin, 1989), pp. 170-83, 235-83.

Primary Text: Rachel Fell McDermott et al, eds. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Volume II, Modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 345-60.

Controversy: Religion, Politics, Communalism

25. The 'Muslim Question' and the partition of India I

Readings: Jamal Malik, *Islam in South Asia: A Short History* (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2012), pp.291- 317.

Primary Text: Rachel Fell McDermott et al, eds. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Volume II, Modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 453-69.

Controversy: Divide and Rule or legitimate political movement?

26. The 'Muslim Question' and partition of India II

Readings: Jamal Malik, *Islam in South Asia: A Short History* (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2012), pp. 319-55.

Primary Text: "Muslim Address to Lord Minto, 1 October 1906", in: C. H. Philips, ed. *The Evolution of India and Pakistan, 1858-1947* (London: Oxford University Press, 1964), pp. 190-93; Chaudhry Rehmat Ali, *Now or Never* (Cambridge, 1933); Sharifuddin Pirzada, ed. *Foundations of Pakistan: All India Muslim League Documents, 1906-47, Vol. II* (Karachi: Royal Book Company, 1969-90), pp. 153-76; Sharifuddin Pirzada, ed. *Foundations of Pakistan: All India Muslim League Documents, 1906-47, Vol. II* (Karachi: Royal Book Company, 1969-90), pp. 325-49.

Controversy: Legacy divided on heritage protected?

27. The legacy of the Colonial rule; postcolonial nation states I



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Readings: Hamza Alavi, “Authoritarianism and Legitimation of State Power”, in: Subrata Kumar Mitra, ed. *The Post-Colonial State in Asia: Dialectics of Politics and Culture* (Lahore: Sang-e-Meel, 1998), pp. 19-72

Primary Text: Rachel Fell McDermott et al, eds. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Volume II, Modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 594-604.

Controversy: The postcoloniality of postcolonial?

28. The legacy of the Colonial rule; postcolonial nation states II

Readings: Bipan Chandra et al, *India Since Independence* (New Delhi: Penguin, 2008), pp. 106-66.

Primary Text: Rachel Fell McDermott et al, eds. *Sources of Indian Tradition: Volume II, Modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 707-15.

Controversy: Nehru’s India or Modi’s Bharat?

29. Conclusions about themes, concepts, issues and (alternative) narratives.