

Syllabus *History of South Asia 2*

21:510:281

Spring 2017, Rutgers University-Newark

Tuesday/Thursday 10:00 am – 11:20 am, SMT-242

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30 am – 12:30 pm and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the history of the Indian subcontinent from the advent of the Mughal Empire in 1526 until the present day. We proceed chronologically and cover some of the major political, social, religious, and cultural developments within early modern, colonial, and postcolonial South Asia. Students will be exposed to primary sources, written by a diverse array of people and translated from numerous languages, as well as the politics of history in the present day. Students will also learn about the practice of history more broadly, including how to read primary and secondary texts, how to weigh evidence, and how to formulate a coherent historical argument.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students can expect the following through successful completion of this course:

Acquire basic knowledge of South Asian history from the mid-second millennium CE until today, including major political, social, religious, and cultural developments.

Learn strategies for approaching and making sense of primary historical sources.

Develop critical reading skills by learning to understand and evaluate scholarly arguments.

Formulate legitimate historical questions and identify the means of investigating those queries.

Learn how to assess different types of historical evidence and posit a grounded thesis.

Appreciate the role of history and historical memory in present day debates.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Catherine Asher and Cynthia Talbot, *India Before Europe*, 2006.

Barbara Metcalf and Thomas Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, 3rd edition, 2012.

The two required texts are available at the bookstore. All other readings are on Blackboard.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Your grade is based on four components:

Class Attendance and Preparation	35%
Writing Assignments	30%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	20%

Class Attendance: You are required to attend all classes. Your attendance grade includes the map quiz and periodic pop quizzes (these quizzes cannot be made-up if you miss class for an unexcused reason). Everyone gets one unexcused absence per term, and beyond that your grade will suffer.

- *Excused Absences:* Recognized grounds for absence include illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, and recognized religious holidays. You must contact the professor or absences will be counted as unexcused.
- *Extended Absences:* Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

Class Preparation: You should come to class having carefully read all listed readings for that day. There are two main types of readings: (1) secondary texts and (2) primary sources. These two types of materials require different critical reading skills, and both are important for making sense of South Asian history and its relevance today.

Midterm and Final: The midterm is worth 15% of your grade, and the final is worth 20% of your grade. Both exams are cumulative, which means that everything in the course up until that point is fair game. Exams will draw upon both lectures and readings.

Writing Assignments: There are five primary source analyses due in the class. Each primary source analysis is worth 5% of your final grade (analysis #4 is worth 10% of your final grade).

CLASS POLICIES

Absences: If you miss class or arrive late, you are absent. Everyone gets one free unexcused absence (save this for an occasion when you may truly need it). For extenuating circumstances, get in touch with the instructor at least 48 hours before the missed class. Do not contact the instructor about the content of missed lectures. It is your responsibility to find out from classmates about subjects discussed in your absence.

Electronics in Class: Laptops are permitted for note-taking only in class until they become a problem; phones should be silenced. No recordings are permitted. If at any point electronics prove distracting, all electronics will be banned.

Late Work: All late work incurs a penalty of one letter grade for every 24 hours late.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism, cheating, and other academic dishonesty of *any sort* will not be tolerated. Please familiarize yourself with the Rutgers Code of Student Conduct and resources about academic dishonesty: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>. All students are required to include the Rutgers honor pledge on all major course assignments submitted for grading: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).”

Week 1

January 17 Introduction to Modern South Asia and “South Asia”

January 19 NO CLASS

Week 2

January 24 Babur: Founder of the Mughal Empire
Asher and Talbot, *India Before Europe*, 1-12, 115-123
Primary Source: *Baburnama*, Longman, trans. Thackston, 16-20
*map quiz

January 26 Akbar: Architect of the Mughal Empire
Asher and Talbot, *India Before Europe*, 123-44
Primary Source: Spend 10 minutes perusing UNESCO website on Fatehpur Sikri, especially the photos.

Week 3

January 31 Paintings, Buildings, and Women in Mughal India
Asher and Talbot, *India Before Europe*, 186-207
Primary Source: *Jahangirnama*, Longman, trans. Thackston, 20-27

*January 31 Assignment (due in class): Primary source analysis 1, *Jahangirnama*

February 2 Aurangzeb’s India: Shivaji, Sufism, and Troubled Legacy
Asher and Talbot, *India Before Europe*, 227-240
Analysis of Primary Source: Taymiya Zaman, “A Hindu Soldier’s Aurangzeb”
Primary Source: Jahanara’s Account of Pilgrimage to Ajmer, 87-90
Metcalf and Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, 29-32

Week 4

February 7 Military Slavery and Race in the Deccan
Eaton, “Malik Ambar,” 105-128
Sunil Khilnani’s 15-minute podcast on Malik Ambar, from “Incarnations”
Primary Source: Image of Jahangir shooting Malik Ambar (Spend 3 minutes with this)

February 9 Two Sikh moments: Formation of the Khalsa and Banda Bahadur's rebellion
Asher and Talbot, *India Before Europe*, 265-273
Primary Source: Excerpts from *Ibratnama*, trans. Iqbal Husain, *Sikh History from Persian Sources*, 131-141

Week 5

February 14 Mughal Demise, Regional Flourishing, and the Rise of the East India Company
Metcalf and Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, 32-55

February 16 Colonial Knowledge: "Gentoo" law and Sanskrit
Metcalf and Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, 56-68
Sunil Khilnani's 15-minute podcast on Sir William Jones, from "Incarnations"
Primary Source: The Second Anniversary Discourse of Sir William Jones (1785)

*February 16 Assignment (due in class): Primary source analysis 2, Second Anniversary Discourse

Week 6

February 21 Two Sides to Company Rule: Conquest and White Mughals
Metcalf and Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, 68-81

February 23 Tradition and Reform: Evolving Views of India and Hinduism
Metcalf and Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, 81-91
Primary Source: Ram Mohan Roy, "Conference on Burning Widows Alive," 323-332

Week 7

February 28 Mutiny, Revolt, Rebellion
Metcalf and Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, 92-107
Primary Source: Queen Victoria's 1858 Proclamation

March 2 British Raj: Structuring Indian Society
Metcalf and Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, 108-122
Primary Source: The People of India (1868), excerpts

*March 2 Assignment (due in class): Primary source analysis 3, The People of India

Week 8

March 7 Midterm Review

March 9 Midterm

March 14 and 16 No Class – Spring Break

Week 9

March 21 British Raj 1: Congress, Census, and Change
Metcalfe and Metcalfe, *Concise History of Modern India*, 123-144
Primary Source: Vivekananda's 1893 Speech in Chicago, 64-65

March 23 British Raj 2: Women, Rising Violence, and Durbars
Metcalfe and Metcalfe, *Concise History of Modern India*, 144-166

Week 10

March 28 Independence Movements 1: Beginning of Gandhi's Hind Swaraj movement
Metcalfe and Metcalfe, *Concise History of Modern India*, 167-185
Primary Source: Gandhi's *Experiments with Truth*, The Birth of Khadi, 441-442
Primary Source: Gandhi's 1930 letter to Lord Irwin

March 30 Independence Movements 2: Quit India
Metcalfe and Metcalfe, *Concise History of Modern India*, 185-202
Primary Source: Gandhi's 1942 Quit India speeches

*March 30 Assignment (due in class): Primary source analysis 4 (worth 10% of final grade), Gandhi readings

Week 11

April 4 Partition: The Idea and The Reality
Metcalfe and Metcalfe, *Concise History of Modern India*, 203-223
Primary Source (short story): Manto, "Toba Tek Singh," 212-220

April 6 Transfer of Power and the Messy Aftermath
Metcalfe and Metcalfe, *Concise History of Modern India*, 223-230
Primary Source (online exhibit): Women During Partition: Rebuilding Lives

Week 12

April 11 Indian Economics, Poverty, and State Security
Vinay Lal, "Independent India"
Metcalfe and Metcalfe, *Concise History of Modern India*, 231-251

April 13 Caste and its Enduring Legacies
Khilnani, "Ambedkar," 316-25
Primary Source: Valmiki, *Joothan: An Untouchable's Life*, 1-17

*April 13 Assignment (due in class): Primary source analysis 5, of *Joothan*

Week 13

April 18 Points of Conflict: The Creation of Bangladesh and Unrest in Kashmir
Metcalf and Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, 251-260
Sunil Khilnani, "In 1971, A Genocide Took Place"
Pankaj Mishra, "Kashmir: The Unending War"
<note> Vinay Lal's Pakistan timeline may be useful for reference (link on Blackboard)

April 20 Pakistan: Many Islams and education
Stern, Jessica. "Pakistan's Jihad Culture," 115-126
Craig Davis, "A is for Allah, J is for Jihad," 90-94
Taymiya Zaman, "Not Talking About Pakistan"

Week 14

April 25 The BJP Rises and Rises Again:
Metcalf and Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, 272-283
Primary Source: Savarkar excerpts from Jaffrelot's *Hindu Nationalism: A Reader*, 85-96

April 27 South Asia in 2017
Readings TBA

Final Exam: May 9, 8:30 – 11:30 am