A 4,000 year journey...

In this course, we cover the history of the Indian subcontinent from the Indus Valley Civilization until the 1520s CE. We proceed chronologically and cover some of the major political, social, religious, and cultural developments in premodern India. 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 and how to assess historical arguments.

*fulfills history core curriculum requirement
More Remote Learning!?

Yes! No commute, no parking problems, join from anywhere with reliable internet.

Tips for success:

You need to attend synchronous classes Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Class meetings on are Zoom; the link is on Canvas.

The professor wants you to succeed; if you have issues or concerns, please be in touch.

Canvas if your friend. Follow the weekly modules on Canvas!

What will I learn in this class?

The specifics – South Asian politics, social change, religious history, and cultures over 4,000 years.

The bigger picture – how to:
- think critically
- argue well
- judge the quality of others’ arguments
- identify and use evidence

You can use these skills for the rest of your life.
The professor wants you to succeed. If you have questions or concerns, please get in touch!

Down to Brass Tacks

How do I get the grade I want?

Read. Listen. Think. Do Assignments.

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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance / Participation</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Writing Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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Class Attendance

Attend class twice weekly and complete individual online quizzes.

<note> lectures are not recorded

In addition to lectures, we will have a series of guest visitors and sidebar conversations.

Class Preparation

Read / listen / watch everything assigned.
Think about it too.

Midterm and Final

Exams are open book, open note, cumulative, and draw on lectures and readings.

You may not collaborate with fellow students during exams; if you consult other students, it will be considered an academic integrity violation.

Individual Writing Assignments

There are 4 in total; details and due dates on Canvas. All focus on primary sources.

*What is a "primary source? See the next page.*
Readings – What you need to know

There are three types of readings weekly:

Secondary sources (unmarked)
Primary sources (P)
Present-day connections (C)

Secondary sources: analyses of the past; usually written by scholars (e.g., textbook)

Primary sources (P): written or made by historical actors at the time (e.g., speeches)

Present-Day Connections (C): Modern-day reflections on history and why it matters.

These three types of materials require different critical reading skills. All are important for making sense of South Asian history and its relevance today.

Pro tip: Budget extra time for readings primary sources.

In this course, we prioritize hearing from different perspectives and voices in South Asian history!

Buy the textbook (any post-2002 edition works):
https://www.amazon.com/dp/0143029894/

All other readings are on Canvas.
CLASS POLICIES

Absences: Everyone gets two unexcused absences. Beyond that, your grad may suffer. If you find yourself missing class or having difficulties, whether for pandemic-related or other reasons, please reach out to the professor to discuss the best way to succeed in this course.

Rutgers University policies on absences:
- **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 grader, in advance where possible, 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.

**Academic Integrity:** You must have this. If you plagiarize, cheat, help another student cheat, or are otherwise academically dishonest, you will face disciplinary action. Don't want trouble? Don’t Cheat. [Rutgers Academic Integrity policy](#).

**Intellectual Property:** Lectures, powerpoints, assignments, and other materials utilized in this course are protected by United States copyright laws as well as Rutgers University policy. You are not permitted to share any of these without written consent from the instructor. Similarly, all original work that you produce for this course is covered by copyright protections, and neither the instructor nor grader will share your work without written consent from you.

**Late Work:** All late work incurs a penalty of one letter grade (10% reduction) for every 24 hours late.
Counseling Center: The Rutgers–Newark Counseling Center provides a number of counseling and consultative services to enrolled and eligible undergraduate and graduate students. For students, if you are seeking individual or group therapy, you can expect to find a safe, supportive space to collaboratively identify and begin to change the thoughts, behaviors, and beliefs that prevent you from being your best self. More here

Disabilities: Rutgers welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form.

Food: PantryRUN, the campus food pantry, helps students who have difficulty affording enough healthy food to remain focused on their studies and stay healthy. Hours and information.

Pandemic: Your go-to for how COVID-19 is being handled at Rutgers University-Newark is MyRun Student Resources.

Writing: The Rutgers University-Newark Writing Center provides tutoring for students who want to strengthen their reading, writing, and research skills. They offer individual sessions and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled. Find information here.
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Th 9/2</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Tu 9/7</td>
<td>Intro: South Asia, Evidence, and the Practice of History</td>
<td>Thapar, <em>Early India</em>, 1–29 Maps on Canvas (P) Lal, “History and Politics” (C)</td>
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<td>Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilization</td>
<td>“Indus Seal” podcast “Around the Indus in 90 Slides” (P) Joseph, <em>Early Indians</em> on Bhimbetka (C)</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Tu 9/14</td>
<td>Guest Visitor Tony Joseph</td>
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<td>Guest Visitor Sohini Pillai</td>
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<td>Sidebar – How do historians talk about religion?</td>
<td>Keeping it 101 podcast, “What the heck is religion”</td>
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<td>Guest Visitor Arshia Sattar</td>
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<td>Sidebar – How might we narrate a people’s history of this time?</td>
<td>Samantrai, “Who Needs the Subaltern?”</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Tu 10/19</td>
<td>Silk Road and Dharma</td>
<td>Davis, <em>Global India Circa 100 CE The Law Code of Manu</em> (trans Olivelle), excerpts (P) Ambedkar &amp; others on Burning Manu Smriti (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Reading Material</td>
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| Week 9 | Tu 10/26 | Sex, Drugs, and Other Cultural Flashpoints in Classical India         | Thapar, *Early India*, 280-302  
15 Minute History, “Era Between the Empires”  
McHugh, “Varieties of Drunk Experience”  
Kamasutra, trans. Doniger, 3-21, 48-51 (P) |
|        | Th 10/28 | Guest Visitor James McHugh                                           |                                                                                  |
| Week 10 | Tu 11/2  | India in the World c. 700 CE                                        | Thapar, *Early India*, second half of chapter 9, 302–325  
Khilnani, Shankaracharya podcast  
Gordon, *When Asia was the World*, “Xuanzang” (P) |
|        | Th 11/4  | Sidebar – Biases in history, then and now                           | Arnold & Turner, “When Buddhists are Violent” (C)                                |
| Week 11 | Tu 11/9  | South India c. 700-1300 CE: Cholas, Temples, Traders                | Thapar, *Early India*, 348–370, 381–404  
*Travels of Marco Polo* (trans Latham), 260–276 (P)  
*Hymns for the Drowning* (Ramanujan) 3–13 (P)  
“The Hindu Temple” 5-minute Video (C)       |
|        | Th 11/11 | Guest Visitor Tamara Sears                                          |                                                                                  |
| Week 12 | Tu 11/16 | Game-changers: Ghaznavids and Ghurids                                | Asher and Talbot, *India Before Europe*, 18-35  
Eaton, “Temple desecration”  
Al-Biruni’s *India*, 3-8, 17-26 (P)  
Gandhi, “Toppling Monuments” (C)             |
|        | Th 11/18 | Guest Visitor Abhishek Amar + Sidebar – heritage talk                | “Kasdorf,” Art Talk 5-minute video                                               |
| Week 13 | Tu 11/23 | NO CLASS (Thanksgiving week))                                       |                                                                                  |
|        | Th 11/25 | NO CLASS (Thanksgiving week)                                        |                                                                                  |
| Week 14 | Tu 11/30 | Tale of Two Empires: Delhi Sultanate and Vijayanagara               | Asher and Talbot, *India Before Europe*, 35–77  
Khilnani’s Krishnadevaraya podcast  
Ibn Battuta, *Travels*, 161–172 (P)  
*Padmaavat* Trailer and Khalid on stereotypes (C) |
|        | Th 12/2  | Guest Visitor Jamal Jones                                           |                                                                                  |
| Week 15 | Tu 12/7  | Religion Updates: Sufis, Bhakti, and the Sikh tradition              | Nesbitt, “Origins and development of Sikh faith: The Gurus”  
Kabir poetry, *Longman*, 18-21 (P)                                                      |
|        | Th 12/9  | Guest Visitor Simran Jeet Singh                                      | Daily Show: Confused Islamophobes Target American Sikhs (C)                      |
| Final  | 12/21    | *Tentative date (final date is set by the powers that be at Rutgers, not the prof) |                                                                                  |
| Exam   | (a.m.)   |                                                                      |                                                                                  |