**Syllabus** History of South Asia II
Course number 21:510:281

Spring 2021, Rutgers University-Newark
Tuesday/Thursday 10:00 am – 11:20 am EST
* synchronous remote course

**INSTRUCTOR**
Audrey Truschke  
Associate Professor  
Department of History  
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30 am -12:30 pm on Zoom and by appointment

**GRADER**
TBA

**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 roughly chronologically and analyze some of the major political, social, religious, and cultural developments in early modern, colonial, and independent South Asia. Students will be exposed to primary sources, written by diverse people and translated from numerous languages, as well as the modern politics of history. 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 coherent historical arguments.

**SYLLABUS OVERVIEW**
General Information Pages 1–4  
Weekly Readings, Schedule & Assignments Pages 5–8

**PANDEMIC PEDAGOGY – NEED TO KNOW FOR REMOTE LEARNING**
We have synchronous class meetings on Tues/Thurs. You need a reliable internet connection.

Class meetings on are Zoom; you can find the link on Canvas.

Our Canvas class site has a module for each week with all readings, assignments, and quizzes. Each week features an overview document that lists everything you need to accomplish that week.

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

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

- Acquire basic knowledge of South Asian history from 1526 until the present day, including major political, social, religious, and cultural developments.
- Develop strategies for approaching and making sense of primary sources.
- Learn to understand and evaluate scholarly arguments.
- Formulate 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

There are no required textbooks; all readings are on Canvas.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Your grade is based on four components:

- Class Attendance and Participation 35%
- Individual Writing Assignments 25%
- Midterm Essay 15%
- Final Exam 25%

Class Attendance: Your attendance grade includes

1. attending and participating in the twice weekly class meetings
2. completing all listed readings
3. participation in the group discussions on Canvas
4. individual online quizzes (participation grade-based)

Online lectures are held on Tuesdays and Thursday between 10 a.m. and 11:20 a.m. EST, and quizzes / recorded videos / group discussions should be completed during the listed week. Lectures are not recorded.

Class Preparation: You should carefully read all listed readings. There are three types of readings every week: (1) secondary texts (unmarked on the syllabus), (2) primary sources, and (3) present-day connections. These three types of materials require different critical reading skills, and all are important for making sense of South Asian history and its relevance today.

Midterm and Final: The midterm essay is worth 15% of your grade, and the final exam is worth 25% of your grade. Both exams are cumulative, drawing upon lectures and readings. They are both essay-based and open book / open note. You may not, however, collaborate with fellow students or consult material not assigned in this course; doing so will be considered an academic integrity violation.
**Individual Writing Assignments:** There are four writing assignments—primary source analyses—in the course, with due dates indicated on the syllabus and on Canvas. All are due at 11:59 pm via Canvas and are worth 5-10% of your final grade (indicated by assignment). These exercises develop the skills necessary to read and make sense of primary sources, a key part of studying history and living in the world as a critical thinker.

**Class Policies**

**Absences:** If you have more than two absences from online lectures, discussions, or quizzes, your grade 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. Please note the following 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:** The professor and grader expect full academic honesty from all students. If you plagiarize, cheat, help another student cheat, or are otherwise academically dishonest, you will face disciplinary action. Being caught cheating is the last thing anybody needs in the middle of a pandemic, and you will be caught. So, Don’t Cheat. See: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/

Please 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).”

**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. If you find yourselves having difficulties in this department for pandemic-related reasons, please talk to the professor.
Support and Assistance

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. http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu.

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: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. 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: https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration.

Food: PantryRUN, the campus food pantry, helps students who have difficulty affording enough healthy food to remain focused on their studies and stay healthy. You can find hours and information here: https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/pantryrun.

Pandemic: Your go-to resource for how COVID-19 is being handled at Rutgers University-Newark is MyRun Student Resources: https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/covid19.

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 in classes on the Rutgers University-Newark campus; they are offering remote tutoring. More details here: https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center.
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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Starting Points: India, South Asia, and Babur</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>10–11 a.m. Lecture</td>
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<td>January 21</td>
<td>guest visitor TBA</td>
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Asher and Talbot, *India Before Europe*, excerpts  
**Primary Source:** *Baburnama*, Longman, trans. Thackston, 16–20  
**Present-Day Connection:** Dale, excerpt on “Babri Masjid and Timurid Ideology”

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<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Building and Challenging the Mughal Empire: Akbar through Shah Jahan</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>10–11 a.m. Lecture</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td>guest visitor TBA</td>
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Asher and Talbot, *India Before Europe*, excerpts  
Sunil Khilnani’s 15-minute podcast on Malik Ambar, from “Incarnations”  
**Primary Source:** *Jahangirnama*, Longman, trans. Thackston, 20–27  
**Present-Day Connection:** “Guards at the Taj,” Scene 1, read or watch

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<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Religion in Early Modern India</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>10–11 a.m. Lecture</td>
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<td>February 4</td>
<td>Religion moment: How do we talk about religions in history?</td>
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Sunil Khilnani’s 15-minute podcast on Mirabai, from “Incarnations”  
Asher and Talbot, *India Before Europe*, excerpts  
Eaton, *India in the Persianate Age*, 355–361  
**Primary Source:** *Songs of the Saints of India*, trans. Hawley and Juergensmeyer, 134–35  
**Present-Day Connection:** Singh, “Farmers’ protests against India’s new agriculture laws follow long Sikh tradition”

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<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Aurangzeb and His Discontents</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>10–11 a.m. Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>guest visitor TBA</td>
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Eaton, *India in the Persianate Age*, excerpts  
Truschke, “A Much Maligned Mughal”  
**Primary Source:** Chandar Bhan’s Letter to his son in Kinra, “Letter of Advice,” 512–518  
**Present-Day Connection:** Lal, “Shivaji and the Politics of History”
**Week 5**  
The Long Eighteenth Century: Mughal Demise and the Rise of Company Bahadur

- February 16  
  10–11 a.m. Lecture
- February 18  
  Discussion: Should a People’s History Be Our Narrative and Other Good Questions

  Fisher, *Mughal Empire*, 209–18  
  Wilson, *India Conquered*, 1–9  
  **Primary Source**: Sufi Lyrics of Bullhe Shah, #19, #106  
  **Present-Day Connection**: Kamlee | Hadiqa Kiani

**Week 6**  
How Could the East India Company conquer India and other Bad Questions

  *Feb 22: Primary (and secondary) source analysis 2 on Tipu’s Tiger

- February 23  
  10–11 a.m. Lecture
- February 25  
  Discussion on Politics: Why do people ask bad questions about the past?

  Bose and Jalal, *Modern South Asia*, excerpts  
  On **Primary Source** and **Present-Day Connection**: Davis, *Lives of Indian Images*, 143–85

**Week 7**  
Colonial Knowledge: “Gentoo” law and Hindu Reformers

- March 2  
  10–11 a.m. Lecture
- March 4  
  Discussion: Who do we forget in history?

  Metcalf and Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, excerpts  
  Sunil Khilnani’s podcasts on Sir William Jones and Rammohan Roy, from “Incarnations”  
  **Primary Source**: The Second Anniversary Discourse of Sir William Jones (1785)  
  **Present-Day Connection**: Kapadia, “In the lockdown, a reminder of the missing histories of women at work”

**Week 8**  
The Sepoy Rebellion and the Dawn of the British Raj

- March 9  
  10–11 a.m. Lecture
- March 11  
  No Class -- Midterm

  Metcalf and Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, excerpts  
  **Primary Source (short story)**: Premchand, “The Chess Players”  
  **Primary Source**: Queen Victoria’s 1858 Proclamation  
  **Present-Day Connection**: Kapadia,“ Hidden under Meghan Markle’s Givenchy veil was Britain bloody history of colonialism”

**Week 9**  
March 16 and 18: Spring Break, NO CLASS
**Week 10**  
Creating and Exporting Indian Ideas and Indians

March 23  
10–11 a.m. Lecture

March 25  
guest visitor TBA

Bose and Jalal, *Modern South Asia*, excerpts
Bahadur, “How could I write about women whose existence is barely acknowledged?”
**Primary Source:** Vivekananda’s 1893 Speech in Chicago
**Primary Source (short story):** Hossain, “Sultana’s Dream”
**Present-Day Connection:** Poyam, “Why Adivasis demand a “Tribal Religion” census category”

**Week 11**  
Mahatma Gandhi and Other Strands of the Indian Independence Movement

*March 29, Primary Source Analysis 3, Gandhi readings (due on Canvas by 11:59 p.m.)*

March 30  
10–11 a.m. Lecture

April 1  
Discussion: Binge Watching on Netflix and Other Historian Confessions

Lal, “Gandhi” and other pages
15 Minute History: The End of Colonialism in South Asia
**Primary Source:** Gandhi’s *Experiments with Truth*, The Birth of Khadi, 441–442
**Primary Source:** Gandhi’s 1930 letter to Lord Irwin
**Primary Source:** Gandhi’s 1942 Quit India speeches
**Present-Day Connection:** Kapur, “‘The Crown’ skips over the British royal family’s colonial legacy”

**Week 12**  
Partition: The Brutal Idea and the Brutal Reality

April 6  
10–11 a.m. Lecture

April 8  
Discussion: 1947 Partition Archive and Oral History

Butalia, *The Other Side of Silence*, 3–26 (doubles as **Present-day Connection**)
Sunil Khilnani’s 15-minute podcasts on Jinnah and Manto, from “Incarnations”
**Primary Source (short story):** Manto, “Toba Tek Singh,” 212–220
**Primary Source (online exhibit):** 1947 Partition Archive
**Present-Day Connection:** Ansari, “How the Partition of India happened – and why its effects are still felt today”
**Week 13**  
Building nations and citizens in modern South Asia

*April 12, Primary source analysis 4, Joothan (due on Canvas by 11:59 p.m.)*

April 13  
10–11 a.m. Lecture

April 15  
guest visitor TBA

Bose and Jalal, *Modern South Asia*, excerpts
Sunil Khilnani’s 15-minute podcast on Ambedkar, from “Incarnations”
**Primary Source:** Valmiki, *Joothan: An Untouchable’s Life*, 1–17
**Present-Day Connection:** Dutt, “Indian Matchmaking Exposes the Easy Acceptance of Caste”

**Week 14**  
Climate Change, Border Disputes, and Other Issues

April 20  
10–11 a.m. Lecture

April 22  
guest visitor TBA

“The Kashmir Conflict, Explained” (watch)
Mishra, “Kashmir: The Unending War”
Chatterjee, “In Kashmir, India Is Witnessing Its General Dyer Moment”
Reporting on **Primary Source:** “Google maps changes disputed borders”
**Present-Day Connection:** Osuri, “Kashmiris are living a long nightmare of Indian colonialism”

**Week 15**  
The Hindu Rashtra

April 27  
10–11 a.m. Lecture

April 29  
Headline Round-up: How can History Help us Understand Our World?

Traub, “India’s Dangerous New Curriculum”
Filkins, “Blood and Soil in Narendra Modi’s India”
**Primary Source:** Savarkar excerpts from Jaffrelot’s *Hindu Nationalism: A Reader*, 85–96
**Present-Day Connection:** Patwardhan’s *Ram ke Naam* (watch)

**Final Exam May 11, 8:30–11:30 a.m.**