

Syllabus: History of South Asia 2
21:510:281

Fall 2018, Rutgers University – Newark
Fridays 2.30-5.20pm, 424 Conklin Hall

Instructor

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Office Hours: Fridays 1.20-2.20pm and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the history of the Indian subcontinent from the advent of the Mughal Empire in 1526 through the aftermath of India's independence and partition in 1947. We proceed chronologically and cover some of the major political, social, religious, and cultural developments within early modern, colonial, and postcolonial South Asia. We will also explore the various colonial encounters between Europeans and South Asians from the 16th to 20th centuries. Students will be exposed to primary sources, written by a diverse array of people and translated from numerous languages, and how history impacts politics and society 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.

This class meets for two hours and fifty minutes once per week. Although each week will vary, it will mostly be structured around a 75-minute lecture, a short break, and 75-minute seminar-style section which will include class and group discussion, debates, in-class writing, and small group work. Through this mixture of lecture and discussion, students will engage with texts, films, fine art, online and visual sources in nuanced and various ways.

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 the 20th Century, 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 TEXT:

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

The required text is available at the bookstore. All other readings are on Blackboard (those marked as “online” on the syllabus)

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). This class meets once per week, so missing a class will have a serious negative impact your learning and performance.

Everyone gets one unexcused absence per term, and beyond that your grade will suffer.

Since this class meets once a week, any student who misses **four or more sessions** through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will have missed more than a quarter of the class time and **will not earn credit in this class**.

- *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 via email and as a hardcopy in the class. Each primary source analysis is worth 6% 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.

Since this class meets once a week, any student who misses **four or more sessions** through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will have missed more than a quarter of the class time and **will not earn credit in this class**.

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)."

Policy on Students with Disabilities:

Rutgers University 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 on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or contact odsnewark@rutgers.edu

Weekly Course Schedule and Assignments

Week 1 : Introduction to Modern South Asia

Friday Sept 7th

Why study history? Why study Empires? Why study South Asia?

Week 2 : The Arrival of the Mughals

September 14th

Lecture: Indo-Persian Society before the Mughals, Babur, Humayun

Secondary Source Readings:

Asher & Talbot, p. 1-12; 115-123 (online)

Metcalf & Metcalf p. 1-14

Primary Source: *Baburnama*, excerpts from Thackston translation (online)

Discussion: Babur's army, Babur's Islam

*map quiz

Week 3: India under Akbar

September 21st

Lecture: Akbar the Great

Secondary Source:

Metcalf & Metcalf p. 15-29

Asher & Talbot, p. 123-144 (online)

Primary Source: *Akbarnama*, excerpts, Sources of Indian Tradition or SOIT or Pollock translation (online)

*primary source analysis #1 of *Akbarnama* due

Discussion: Life and Religion in Akbar's Empire

Spend 10 minutes perusing UNESCO website on Fatehpur Sikri, especially the photos.

Week 4: Europeans and Mughals: The Early Modern Eurasian Encounter

September 28th

Lecture: The Portuguese arrival and Europeans in Akbar's India

Secondary Source:

Marth Howell, *European Merchants in Asian Markets during the Early Modern Period*, p.1-14 (online)

Partho Chatterjee, *500 Years of Fear and Love*, p.1-7 (online)

Primary Source: Europeans at Akbar's court, excerpts, SOIC (online)

Discussion: Islam and Christianity in South Asia: Mughal Miniatures, Jesuit Missionaries, and the Muslims of Kerala

Week 5: Aurangzeb's Empire: Height or beginning of decline?

October 5th

Lecture: Sufism, Expansion, Marathas, and Europeans

Secondary Source:

Asher & Talbot, p.227-240

Secondary and Primary Sources:

Taymiya Zaman, "A Hindu Soldier's Aurangzeb" (short article – online)

Phil Stern's *Siege of Bombay – Soldier's Diary*, excerpts p.1-23 (online)

*Primary Source analysis #2 on Taymiya Zaman, "A Hindu Soldier's Aurangzeb" due

Discussion: The Eurasian Encounter and Siege of Bombay – Mughal peak or start of decline?

Week 6: Mughal Decline, Regional Challengers, and the Rise of the East India Companies

October 12th

Lecture: Causes of Mughal Decline – South Asian and European Challengers

Secondary Source:

Metcalf & Metcalf, Ch. 2 p.29-55

Primary Source: Ananda Ranga Pillai, Chief Interpreter to Governor Dupleix of Pondicherry, *Selections from his Private Diary 1709-61*, (online)

Discussion: South Asians and The French East India Company

Week 7: The British East India Company in the 18th Century

October 19th

Lecture: Company Conquest, Company Rule, and the Company State

Secondary Source:

Metcalf & Metcalf, Ch. 3, p.56-68

Primary Source: The Second Anniversary Discourse of Sir William Jones, 1785, (online – 4 pages)
Start Reading: *The Travels of Dean Mahomet: An Eighteenth Century Journey Through India*,
excerpts from Ch, 1-3 (online – this is also midterm prep!)

*primary source analysis 3 on William Jones due

Discussion: The many sides of the British East India Company – White Mughals, Orientalists, and
Military Men

Week 8: Midterm (Review and In Class Test)

Oct 26th

**Midterm: multiple choice and in-class essay based on *The Travels of Dean Mahomet* (some passages
may be new)**

Week 9: Tradition or Reform: The Debate over how to Rule India

November 2nd

Lecture: Orientalists vs. Anglicists: Religion and Language

Secondary Source:

Metcalf & Metcalf, p.68-91

Primary Sources:

Ram Mohan Roy, “Conference on Burning Widows Alive” (online)

Macaulay’s Minute of Education, 1835, (online)

Discussion and Debate: Abolition of Sati and English Language Education

Week 10: The Sepoy Uprising: Mutiny or War of Independence?

November 9th

Lecture: Questioning the Civilizing Mission – Road to Rebellion?

Secondary Source:

Metcalf & Metcalf, p. 92-107

Primary Source: *The Azamgarh Proclamation* and other excerpts, SOIC (online)

Discussion: The Sepoy Mutiny or War of Independence?

Week 11: The British Raj and the Restructuring of Empire

Nov. 16th

Lecture: The New Raj under Queen and Crown

Secondary Source:

Metcalf & Metcalf, p. 108-122

Primary Source: Queen Victoria's 1858 Proclamation (online)

The People of India, 1868, (online)

*primary source analysis 4 due – the People of India

Discussion: Living in post-1857 India

**** Assign film to watch over spring break: *Passage to India***

Week 12: Crisis in the Late British Raj

Nov. 30th

Lecture: The challenges of Nationalism, Women, and Rising Violence – from The India Congress to Amritsar

Secondary Source:

Metcalf & Metcalf, p. 123-154

Primary Source: Vivekananda's 1893 Speech in Chicago (online)

Naoroji and Tilak, excerpts, SOIC (online)

Discussion: What were the main causes of the crisis? Was there a crisis?

Week 13: Independence Movements and The Rise Gandhi

December 7th

Lecture: From Self Rule to Quit India

Secondary Source:

Metcalf & Metcalf, p. 169-202

Primary source: Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* selections (online)

Gandhi's 1930 letter to Lord Irwin (online)

* primary source analysis 5 of *Hind Swaraj* due

Discussion: Gandhi's nonviolent critique and vision

In class viewing of biopic of Gandhi

Week 14: Independence and Partition

December 14th

Lecture: Partition: The Idea and The Reality – Gandhi vs. Jinnah

Secondary Source:

Metcalf & Metcalf, p. 207-230

Manto, "Toba Tek Singh," (online – very short story)

The Other Side of Silence: Voice of Partition TBD

Discussion: Was partition an inevitable part of independence?

Final Exam: Date TBD