Syllabus 01:508:335
History of Modern South Asia c.1830-1950
Tuesday & Friday 10:55 – 12:15, RAB 206
Instructor: Sumit Guha sguha@history.rutgers.edu Office: 005, Van Dyck Hall, CAC

Brief description
An introduction to modern South Asia focused on the transition to and through colonialism and on the emergence of modern nation-states.

Aims and objectives
This course aims at both acquainting you with the recent history of South Asia and building on that to enable you to develop an independent understanding of the major changes that have given life in south Asia its 20th-century shape. Given the interconnected nature of world history you will thereby also acquire the tools to understand colonialism, nationalism and social change in other parts of the world.

- providing a basic acquaintance with the recent history of South Asia. I do not expect extensive memorization of dates and places, but history is incomprehensible if we do not know enough to understand how and in what sequence events took place, and who the protagonists were.
- looking at the big changes in political, social and economic life that have determined the present. These are: the growth of modern state apparatuses, the rise of modern forms of identity and consciousness - consciousness of self, gender and others and interactions of emerging state-structures with nationalism, ethnicity, religion and gender.

Type of instruction: Mainly via class discussion of assigned readings, interspersed with lectures.

Evaluation: Paper I (4-6 pages) 10%; Paper II (8-10 pages) 25%; Paper III (12-14 pages) 30%; Conference report 5%. Attendance and participation (including 4/5 quizzes) 30%. Students must complete all the assignments in order to pass this course. Papers I and II should be submitted by email, preferably in MS Word so as to be in my email-box by 8 AM on the due date. Each paper received will be acknowledged by email by 4
PM. Anyone who does not receive an acknowledgment must phone my office before 6 PM. Late submissions lose 2 points per day.

Paper topics: I. Survey the East India Company's empire in 1856 and describe the important changes since Mughal times
II. Consider the diverse personal experiences of colonialism in South Asia that we have encountered so far. Why and how do they differ from each other?
III. Assess the importance of the modern West in shaping of the cultural, social and political structures of the new India and Pakistan in 1950

Attendance policy: Each absence will result in the deduction of 2% from the participation grade. Two late arrivals or early departures will be treated as one absence. Absences on medical or other grounds require documentary evidence.

Make-up/extra credit policy: A satisfactory 2/3 page review of an assigned reading.

2. Vasant Moon Growing Up Untouchable in India: A Dalit Autobiography trans. Gail Omvedt (These are required)
3. Strongly recommended: Strunk and White Elements of Style
4. Shorter readings on library e-reserve as specified in the syllabus.
5. Longer extracts in course packet available from Pequod Publications, 119 Somerset Street, New Brunswick open 9-5 on weekdays.

NOTE: Do not use internet resources such as Wikipedia etc. unless they are specifically recommended in class.

Schedule

September
4 Introductory meeting - overview of the course and the region – geographical background
7 The pre-modern background in India Metcalf Ch. 1 - the bases of social identity
11 The breakdown of the Mughal empire and the rise of the English East India Company Metcalf Ch. 2
14  Class discussion: English and Indians in the time of Warren Hastings - *Cantoo Baboo* 78-83, 271-298 (e-reserve), *Metcalf* Ch. 3, 56-81
18  The East India Company state in the second British empire - *Metcalf* Ch. 3 to end
21  The English industrial revolution and the modernizing impulse - *Metcalf* Ch. 4. Discussion of Macaulay's *Minute* (e-reserve)
25  Challenge and response: the uprising of 1857 and the new imperial government in India – Queen Victoria's Proclamation e-reserve. Trevelyan Letter 9 (e-reserve)
  *Metcalf* Ch. 5
28  Economic and social change 1850-1914 - the limits of 'modernization' and the experience of famine - extract from Ramabai (e-reserve) Paper I due.

**October**
2  Political life and civil society 1858-1905: *Metcalf chapter 5 contd.*
9  Thinking about identity: Amartya Sen "The Indian Identity" e-reserve
12  Viewing of *Pather Panchali* - start reading *Metcalf Ch.6* - complete by Oct 16.
16  Viewing concluded - discussion of film
19  Women's lives in the late 19th century - statistical overview; Voices: Tarabai Shinde and the feminist critique of nationalism (e-reserve) Paper II due
23  Jyotirao Phule, B.R. Ambedkar and the critique of caste (e-reserve)
26  The beginnings of mass politics 1905-1922
30  Gandhi and the psychology of colonialism - Nandy *Intimate Enemy* i-xvi, 1-55 (Course Packet) Gandhi *Autobiography*; Orwell "Shooting an Elephant" (e-reserve)

**November**
2  Jawaharlal Nehru, Muhammad Iqbal and the challenge of the West e-reserve
6  Discussion of Paper II - Experiences of and responses to Western colonialism
9  Class excursion to the Rutgers South Asian Studies conference
13  India in the 1930s - Halide Edib e-reserve -
16  Dalit lives in the 20th century - Vasant Moon *Growing Up Untouchable*; Valmiki "Village experiences" e-reserve;
20  Politics through war and depression 1930-1945 - *Metcalf Ch. 7* Paper II due
21 Cont'd. Hasan "Communalism in the Provinces" & Nehru's analysis e-reserve & course packet

Thanksgiving break

27 Two positions: Jinnah vs. Azad; N.C Saxena "Historiography" Course packet

30 The high politics of partition 1944-1947

December

4 The face of partition - Bourke-White 1-21 (Course Packet)

7 Conflicts, compromises and the formation of two post-colonial states Metcalf 230-37; Bourke-White "Promised Land" 99-115; "Princes and People" 170-178 (All in Course Packet)

11 Review of paper III

13 Paper III due as hard copy in my office by 7 PM