

**HIST 508: 230**  
**THE MAKING OF MODERN INDIA AND PAKISTAN**  
**Fall 2018, T/TH 6 College Ave Campus (4:30-5:50 pm)**



**Instructor: Julia Stephens**  
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**Meeting Location: SC-214**  
**Office Hours: TBA**  
***NOTE: This course fulfills the***  
***SAS Core Area HST, Goal L***  
**(Employ historical reasoning to**  
**study human endeavors, using**  
**appropriate assumptions,**  
**methods, evidence, and**  
**arguments.)**

**Introduction**

This course is an introduction to the history of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, home today to over a billion and a half people. The course will cover the period from the advent of the Mughal Empire in the sixteenth century, through the history of British colonial rule, the struggle for independence, and the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. Course materials include a wide variety of secondary and primary historical texts, maps, podcasts, artwork, and films.

Assignments and discussions will highlight connections between historical arguments and contemporary debates in South Asia about democracy, secularism, and economic development.

Spanning the rise and fall of two empires and the creation of post-colonial nations, lectures and readings will explore how political and economic change in South Asia has shaped its diverse cultural heritage. The course begins by exploring how the Mughals governed India's numerous religious, linguistic, and regional populations. The decentralization of the Mughal state in the eighteenth century paved the way for the formation of new regional states and the expanding influence of the British East India Company. As the British consolidated their control over the subcontinent during the nineteenth century, they harnessed the region's economy to circuits of colonial capitalism that continue to shape patterns of production, labor, and profit today.

The latter half of the course explores the rise of anti-colonial and nationalist movements, tracing their complex intersection with gender, religion, and caste. The course explores how Gandhian politics co-existed with competing visions of India's struggle for independence, including calls for greater minority representation and more violent modes of protest. Students will be asked to grapple with the human experience of the violent partition of the subcontinent in 1947 by engaging with fiction and film. In the final weeks of the class the course turns to post-colonial and contemporary developments, including the creation of Bangladesh, the Emergency, the liberalization of the Indian economy in the 1990s, religious nationalism, and terrorism.

## Course Requirements and Grading:

**Participation, Attendance, and Class Prep (15%):** Attendance and participation is mandatory, and a sign-in sheet will be circulated in every class session. Over the course of the semester, you are allowed up to three absences, for any reason, without penalty. Any additional absences will result in a three-point deduction from your overall final grade. Rare exceptions to this policy will be made at the professor's discretion in cases of health or family emergency. Absences due to routine schedule conflicts (job interviews, exams in others classes, etc.) or minor illness will not result in additional excused absences beyond the three already allotted.

**Map Quiz (10%):** In the third week of the class, students will take a short map quiz on the geography of South Asia.

**Mid-term Exam (30%):** The mid-term, which will be given in week 6 of the course, will consist of an **in-class exam** involving ID questions, followed by a **take-home essay (approximately 600-800 words)** which asks students to analyze a primary source. You will have forty-eight hours to complete the take-home essay portion of the exam. The take-home essay is open book, and you may discuss the question with your classmates or others. The written essay must be your own work and any cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero and will be reported to the Academic Integrity Facilitator. Use of non-course materials is discouraged. Any direct quotes from sources must be clearly cited.

**Final Exam (45%):** The final will be administered during the course's allocated slot as posted at <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>. It will consist of an **in-class exam**, including IDs and analysis of sources, and a **take-home essay (approximately 800-1200 words)**, to be submitted within twenty-four hours.

### Grade Cutoffs:

A = 90 - 100

C = 70 - 74

B+ = 85 - 89

D = 60 - 69

B = 80 - 84

F = 0 - 59

C+ = 75 - 79

## Course Materials

Students may choose to purchase the textbook *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) ISBN 978-0415779432 or use the copy on reserve in the library. Note that you may also use the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the book, but you should follow the chapter numbers listed in the syllabus, not the page numbers, which are for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

All other course materials will be available through the course website.

## Class Schedule and Readings

### Week 1: Introduction

#### **Meeting 1 (Sept 4): Lecture, Course Introduction**

*Modern South Asia*, chapters 1-3, pp. 1-27.

#### **Meeting 2 (Sept 6): Lecture, The Mughal Empire**



PODCAST: “Akbar: The World and the Bridge”

### Week 2: The Mughal Empire

#### **Meeting 1 (Sept 11): Living History -- Why do the Mughals matter for the present?**

*Modern South Asia*, chapter 4, pp. 28-38.

Start studying the map (posted on Sakai) for the quiz next week.

#### **Meeting 2 (Sept 13): Primary-Source Lab, Mughal Painting**

IMAGE LAB: Consult the four Mughal paintings posted in the “Media Gallery” on Sakai before coming to class.

### Week 3: The 18<sup>th</sup> Century

#### **Meeting 1 (Sept 18): Lecture, Crisis at the Center and the Rise of Regional States [The last 20 minutes of class will be used for the map quiz.]**

*Modern South Asia*, chapter 5, pp. 39-45.



PODCAST: “Shivaji: Dreaming Big”

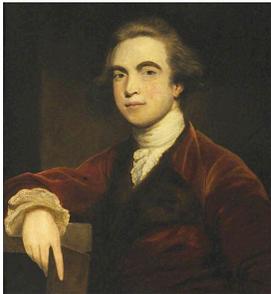
## Meeting 2 (Sept 20): Primary-Source Lab, Debating with Objects

ARTIFACT LAB: Examine the four eighteenth-century artifacts posted on Sakai in the Media Gallery and review the debate guide before coming to class.

### Week 4: The East India Company

#### Meeting 1 (Sept 25): Lecture, East India Company Rule

*Modern South Asia*, chapter 6-8, pp. 46-71.



PODCAST: “William Jones: The Enlightenment Moghul”

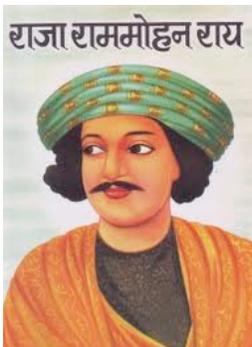
#### Meeting 2 (Sept 27): Secondary-Source Lab -- How to Read a Scholarly Article

Durba Ghosh, “Who Counts as ‘Native’?: Gender, Race and Subjectivity in Colonial India,” *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* 6.3 (2005). [On Sakai]

### Week 5: Reform and Rebellion

#### Meeting 1 (Oct 2): Primary-Source Lab, *Sati*

PRIMARY TEXT LAB: Sati primary sources (available on the course website).



PODCAST: “Rammohan Roy: Humanity in General”

#### Meeting 2 (Oct 4): Lecture, Rebellion!

*Modern South Asia*, chapter 9, pp. 72-79.



PODCAST: “Lakshmi Bai, Rani of Jhansi: Badass Queen”

### **Week 6: India and the British Raj**

**Meeting 1 (Oct 9): In-class mid-term and take-home essay**

**Meeting 2 (Oct 11): Lecture, From Company to Crown Rule**

*Modern South Asia*, chapter 10, pp. 80-88.

PRIMARY TEXT: Queen Victoria, “Proclamation to the Princes, Chiefs, and the People of India (1858).” [On Sakai]

Mike Davis, *Late Victorian Holocausts: El Nino Famines and the Making of the Third World*, pp. 25-60. [On Sakai]

### **Week 7: Indian Society and Early Nationalism**

**Meeting 1 (Oct 16): In-class film and discussion -- Was Indenture a New Form of Slavery?**

Gaiutra Bahadur, “Her Middle Passage,” *The Caravan* (September 1, 2011). [On Sakai]

**Meeting 2 (Oct 18): Lecture, Reform, Revival, and Swadeshi Nationalism**

*Modern South Asia*, chapter 11, pp. 89-103.



PODCAST: “Chidambaram Pillai: Swadeshi Steam”

## Week 8: Violent and Non-Violent Nationalism

### **Meeting 1 (Oct 23): Lecture, Gandhi and his Alternatives**

*Modern South Asia*, chapter 12 & 13, pp. 104-121.



PODCAST: “Gandhi: In the Palm of Our Hands”



PODCAST: “Subhas Chandra Bose: A Touch of the Abnormal”

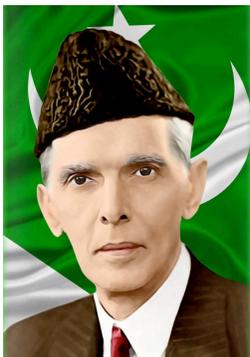
### **Meeting 2 (Oct 25): Living History -- Protest, Past and Present**

FILM: *Rang de Basanti* [To be watched *before* class via online reserve]

## Week 9: “Exploding Communalism”

### **Meeting 1 (Oct 30): Lecture, Muslims, “Communalism,” and the Pakistan Demand**

*Modern South Asia*, chapter 14, pp. 122-129.



PODCAST: “Jinnah: The Chess Player”

## **Meeting 2 (Nov 1): Primary-Source Lab, Caste, Gandhi, and Ambedkar**

PRIMARYY TEXT: Read the selections from primary texts from Gandhi and Ambedkar and review the lab guide before coming to class.



PODCAST: “Bhimrao Ambedkar: Building Palaces on Dung Heaps”

## **Week 10: World War II, Famine, and Independence**

### **Meeting 1 (Nov 6): Lecture, The Unwinding of Empire**

*Modern South Asia*, chapter 15, pp. 130-136.

Amitav Ghosh, “India’s Untold War of Independence,” *The New Yorker* (June 23, 1997): 104-121.

### **Meeting 2 (Nov 8): Primary-Source Lab, Film-Scene Analysis, *Earth***

*Modern South Asia*, chapter 16, pp. 137-158.

FILM: *Earth* [To be watched *before* class via online reserve]

## **Week 11: Freedom at Midnight**

### **Meeting 1 (Nov 13): Lecture, August 1947 -- Jubilation and Despair**

*Modern South Asia*, chapter 17, pp. 159-168.

ORAL INTERVIEWS: Listen to the four interviews posted on Sakai (under tab “Partition Interviews”). For additional interviews visit <http://www.1947partitionarchive.org/>.

### **Meeting 2 (Nov 15): Lecture, State Centralization and Popular Dissent in India and Pakistan**

*Modern South Asia*, chapter 18, pp. 169-183.

Christophe Jaffrelot, “India and Pakistan: Interpreting the Divergence of Two Political Trajectories,” *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 15, no. 2 (2002): 251-267. [On Sakai]

## Week 12: Post-Colonial Imaginaries: Unity and Diversity

**Meeting 1 (Nov. 20):** *In lieu of class this week you should watch the film Amar Akbar Anthony, which is available online via course reserves. A viewing guide will be provided, and we will discuss the film in class after Thanksgiving.*

## Week 13: Democracy and Authoritarianism

**Meeting 1 (Nov 27):** Lecture, States at the Brink – The Bangladesh War and The Emergency

*Modern South Asia*, chapter 19, pp. 184-204.

Amitav Ghosh, “The Ghosts of Mrs Gandhi,” *The New Yorker* (1995). [On Sakai]



PODCAST: “Indira Gandhi: The Centre of Everything”

**Meeting 2 (Nov 29):** Lecture, Religion and Caste in Indian Politics

Menon and Nigram, *Power and Contestation: India Since 1989*, pp. 36-60. [On Sakai]

## Week 14: Religion and Secularism in Pakistan

**Meeting 1 (Dec 4):** Lecture, Islamism and Its Alternatives in Pakistan

Ian Talbot, *Pakistan: A Modern History*, pp. 267-283. [On Sakai]

Kamila Shamsie, “Pop Idols,” *Granta* 112 (16 September 2010). [On Sakai]

**Meeting 2 (Dec 6):** Review and “Living History”

NEWS ANALYSIS: Selections from recent editorials by historians of South Asia

## Week 15: Histories of the Present

**Meeting 1 (Dec 11):** Review