

DRAFT SYLLABUS MARCH 2017 – SUBJECT TO REVISION

**HIST 508: 230**  
**THE MAKING OF MODERN INDIA AND PAKISTAN**

**Fall 2017, T/TH 5:00-6:20 pm**

**Instructor: Julia Stephens (julia.stephens@rutgers.edu)**

**Meeting Location: LIV, TIL 213**

**Office Hours: 002G, Van Dyck Hall, Time TBA**

*NOTE: This course fulfills the SAS Core Area HST.*

**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 nation states, 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 in lectures is mandatory. Your participation grade reflects the quality of your comments in class and the

respect and attention you give to the comments of your classmates. Students will also be asked to complete small assignments, such as submitting a discussion question, in preparation for some in-class activities. These assignments must be submitted in person, in class – failure to do so will be counted as an absence according to the following policy:

**Attendance Policy.** *Students are expected to attend all classes; however, up to two absences can be excused if reported via the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>. An email is automatically sent to me, and I will advise you on any makeup requirements. Unreported absences, or absences beyond two classes, will result in a deduction of 5 points from the student’s participation grade (out of a total of 100). In rare cases, such as serious illness or family emergencies, additional absences may be excused at the discretion of the instructor.*

**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** which asks students to analyze primary source. You will have twenty-four hours to complete the take-home essay portion of the exam. For the take-home essay, you may consult course readings and your own notes, but you **should not receive outside help**, either from students in the course or others.

**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**, to be submitted within twenty-four hours. Again, the take-home portion of the exam is “open-book,” but students may not collaborate or receive outside help.

**Plagiarism Policy for Take-Home Essays:** *These essays must be entirely the student’s own work, without outside help from other students, tutors, etc. Material may be paraphrased from course materials and lectures; students should include page citations for any direct quotations. Use of other outside materials is discouraged, and if consulted, must be clearly cited.*

### **Grade Cutoffs:**

**A = 90 and above.**

**C = 70 and above**

**B+ = 85 and above**

**D+ = 65 and above**

**B = 80 and above**

**D = 60 and above**

**C+ = 75 and above**

**F = 59 and below**

### **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 copies on reserve in the library. All other course materials will be available through the course website.

### **Class Schedule and Readings**

#### **Week 1: Introduction**

### **Meeting 1: Lecture, Course Introduction**

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

### **Meeting 2: Lecture, The Mughal Empire**

PODCAST: “Akbar: The World and the Bridge”

## **Week 2: The Mughal Empire**

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

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

### **Meeting 2: Primary-Source Lab, Mughal Painting**

IMAGES: A selection of Mughal miniatures will be posted on the course website.

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

### **Meeting 1: 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*, pp. 39-45.

PODCAST: “Shivaji: Dreaming Big”

### **Meeting 2: Primary-Source Lab, Debating with Objects**

ARTIFACTS: Each student will be given an eighteenth-century “artifact” to use as part of the class debate on whether the 18<sup>th</sup> century was a period of decline or decentralization.

## **Week 4: The East India Company**

### **Meeting 1: Lecture, East India Company Rule**

*Modern South Asia*, pp. 46-71.

PODCAST: “William Jones: The Enlightenment Moghul”

### **Meeting 2: 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).

## **Week 5: Reform and Rebellion**

### **Meeting 1: Primary-Source Lab, *Sati***

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

**Meeting 2: Lecture, Rebellion!**

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

PODCAST: “Lakshmibai, Rani of Jhansi: Badass Queen”

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

**Meeting 1: In-class mid-term and take-home essay**

**Meeting 2: Lecture, From Company to Crown Rule**

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

PRIMARY TEXT: Queen Victoria, “Proclamation to the Princes, Chiefs, and the People of India (1858),” Available from [http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Queen\\_Victoria's\\_Proclamation](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Queen_Victoria's_Proclamation)

**Week 7: The Political Economy of Empire**

**Meeting 1: Lecture, The “Jewel” in the Crown**

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

**Meeting 2: In-class film and discussion -- Was Indenture a New Form of Slavery?**

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

**Week 8: Violent and Non-Violent Nationalism**

**Meeting 1: Lecture, Gandhi and his Alternatives**

*Modern South Asia*, pp. 104-121.

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

**Meeting 2: Living History -- Protest, Past and Present**

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

**Week 9: “Exploding Communalism”**

**Meeting 1: Lecture, Muslims, “Communalism,” and the Pakistan Demand**

*Modern South Asia*, pp. 122-129.  
PODCAST: "Jinnah: The Chess Player"

**Meeting 2: Primary-Source Lab, Caste, Gandhi, and Ambedkar**

PRIMARY TEXT: Gandhi & Ambedkar selections  
PODCAST: "Bhimrao Ambedkar: Building Palaces on Dung Heaps"

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

**Meeting 1: Lecture, The Unwinding of Empire**

*Modern South Asia*, pp. 130-168.  
Amitav Ghosh, "India's Untold War of Independence," *The New Yorker* (June 23, 1997): 104-121.

**Meeting 2: Primary-Source Lab, Film-Scene Analysis, *Earth***

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

**Week 11: Freedom at Midnight**

**Meeting 1: Lecture, August 1947 -- Jubilation and Despair**

ORAL INTERVIEWS: Selections from [www.1947partitionarchives.com](http://www.1947partitionarchives.com).

**Meeting 2: In-class activity, Constitution Writing**

PRIMARY TEXT: Part III and IV of the Constitution of India, 1950

**Week 12: Democracy and Authoritarianism**

**Meeting 1: Lecture, State Centralization and Popular Dissent in India and Pakistan**

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

**Meeting 2: Secondary-Source Lab, Identifying and Analyzing Arguments**

Christophe Jaffrelot. "India and Pakistan: Interpreting the divergence of two political trajectories." *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 15, no. 2 (2002): 251-267.

### **Week 13: The Post-Colonial State in Crisis**

#### **Meeting 1: Lecture, States at the Brink – The Bangladesh War and The Emergency**

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

PODCAST: “Indira Gandhi: The Centre of Everything”

#### **Meeting 2: Primary-Source Lab, Film-Scene Analysis**

FILM: *Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi* [To be watched *before* class via online reserve]

### **Week 14: Histories of the Present**

#### **Meeting 1: Lecture, Development, Desire, and Dispossession**

Arundhati Roy, The Greater Common Good, <http://www.narmada.org/gcg/gcg.html>

#### **Meeting 2: Living History, Historians and Headlines**

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