

Preliminary Syllabus: Subject to Change

HIST 116
Modern South Asia 1750-1950

Fall 2009
Mon-Wed-Fri 9:10-10:00
Wilson 113

Professor Samira Sheikh
Office: 223 Benson, Tel. 2-4740
Office Hours: Mon 10-11, Wed 10-11 or by appointment

samira.sheikh@vanderbilt.edu

In this course, we will explore two hundred years of the history of South Asia, a region that now comprises three sovereign states: India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. In the late eighteenth century, the English East India Company gradually acquired political power in South Asia from its Mughal rulers. By the mid-nineteenth century, South Asia was a part of the British Empire. We will examine in detail how the East India Company and eventually, the British government, acquired and maintained political control in South Asia. What was the nature of imperial rule in South Asia and to what extent did it shape colonial society? As imperial rule was consolidated, it was also resisted. We will examine the impulses behind the emergence of nationalism in South Asia and how it was expressed in literature, political action and mass movements. Gandhi's philosophy, political strategy and campaigns will be discussed; and also the character of the 'mass nationalism' and outbreaks of popular protest associated with these campaigns. The course will examine the growth of political conflict between Hindus and Muslims and discuss why Partition accompanied the transfer of power and independence in 1947. Alongside the unfolding of historical events, we will also explore the different ways in which this history has been written about and debated, and think about the importance of history itself in the making of modern South Asia. Besides conventional readings, we will use a variety of materials such as speeches, feature films and website content.

• **Course Objectives**

This course has three main objectives. You will be expected to write one essay on an aspect of each theme. Specific essay topics will be discussed in class.

1. To assess the impulses, strengths and limitations of British imperialism in India;
2. To analyse the history and character of Indian nationalism;
3. To appreciate the role of history in the formation of modern South Asian national identities.

- **Assessments**

Participation----	10%	
Quiz---	5%	<i>unannounced</i>
Essay 1-----	25% (6-8 pages)	<i>due Sept 25</i>
Essay 2-----	25% (6-8 pages)	<i>due Oct 30</i>
Film review----	5% (2-4 pages)	<i>due Nov 30</i>
Final exam (take home)-----	30% (8-10 pages)	<i>due Dec 14</i>

Your informed participation is vital to this course. Participation will be assessed on your responses in class, evidence of regular reading, and attendance. Relevant and informed emails will also be evidence of participation. All assessments will receive a letter grade (A, A- and so on). Penalties for late submission will be @5% per day. Plagiarism is easy to detect and severely dealt with. University policies in this area will be applicable. We will discuss citation styles early in the semester. By Essay 2, you should have mastered these styles.

- **Reading**

A full reading list will be provided at the beginning of the course. The following are essential reading and you are advised to buy at least the first book. Several copies are available in the campus bookstore, other copies are on 1-day reserve in the Central Library. Articles and book chapters will be available on OAK. Please check regularly for new materials uploaded there.

Barbara and Thomas Metcalf, *A Concise History of India*, 2nd revised edition, Cambridge, 2006.
 C A Bayly, *Indian Society And The Making Of The British Empire*, Cambridge, 1988 [also available electronically through [Acorn](#)];
 Judith Brown, *Gandhi's Rise To Power*, Cambridge, Cambridge, 1972;
 Ayesha Jalal, *The Sole Spokesman*, Cambridge, Cambridge, 1985.

- **Online South Asia resources**

While you are encouraged to use online **academic** resources, there's a great deal of misleading information on the web. This includes Wikipedia. If you would like to use non-academic online information, please discuss this with me before writing your essays. In written work, ALWAYS cite your sources.

The Digital South Asia Library ([DSAL](#)) is a great resource, with online dictionaries, reference works, and maps of South Asia.

Joseph E. Schwartzberg's [Historical Atlas of South Asia](#) is an indispensable set of historical maps. Please take the time to browse this wonderful atlas.

Professor [Frances Pritchett's](#) phenomenal (and growing) website of resources on South Asia include links and full text access to literature, scholarly articles, maps, images and much more.

Week 1. *India in the eighteenth century*

Aug 26 No reading. Orientation, map exercise and discussion of assessments.

Aug 28 C A Bayly, *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire*, pp. 1-44; J Heesterman, 'Western expansion; Indian reaction: Mughal Empire and British Raj', in *The Inner Conflict of Tradition*, Chicago, 1985.

Week 2. From trade to dominion: the East India Company

Aug 31 William Dalrymple, *White Mughals*, pp. 3-54;

Sept 2 **LIBRARY SESSION WITH PETER BRUSH. MEET IN THE LOBBY OF THE CENTRAL LIBRARY AT 9.10**

Sept 4 Bayly, *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire*, pp. 45-78; C A Bayly, 'The British Military-Fiscal State' in L Stone (ed.), *Imperial State at War*, London, 1994.

Week 3. The 'Age of Reform'

Sept 7 Eric Stokes, *The English Utilitarians and India*, Oxford, 1959, pp. 47-80; Metcalf, *Concise History*, pp. 81-91.

Sept 9 Lucy Carroll, 'Law, Custom and Statutory Social Reform: The Hindu Widow's Remarriage Act of 1856', *IESHR*, 20, 4, 1983 **OR** Lata Mani, 'Contentious Traditions. The Debate on Sati in Colonial India', *Cultural Critique*, 7, 2, 1987, pp. 119-156.

Sept 11 Macaulay's Minute on Education

Week 4. The Indian rebellion of 1857

Sept 14 Metcalf, *Concise History*, pp. 81-107;

Sept 16 Bayly, *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire*, pp. 169-199; The Relief of Lucknow

Sept 18 Film screening: *The Rising* (dir. Ketan Mehta, 2007)

Week 5. India in the heyday of the Raj: imperial administration and the new 'Orientalism'

Sept 21 Discussion

Sept 23 Metcalf, *Concise History*, pp. 108-114;

Sept 25 David Washbrook, 'Law, State and Society' *Modern Asian Studies*, 1981.

ESSAY 1 DUE DATE SEPT 25

Week 6. Imperialism and Indian Society

Sept 28 N Dirks, 'The invention of caste', *Social Analysis*, 1989;

Sept 30 K Prior, 'Making History: The State's Intervention in Religious Disputes', *MAS*, 1993;

Oct 2 David Washbrook, 'Law, State and Society', *MAS*, 1981.

Week 7. The Raj and India's economy

Oct 5 BR Tomlinson, *The Economy of Modern India, 1860-1970*, pp. 1-30;

Oct 7 RS Chandavarkar, 'Industrialisation in India before 1857: Conventional Approaches and Alternative Perspectives', *MAS*, 1985;

Oct 9 David Washbrook, 'Progress and Problems', *MAS*, 1988

Week 8. Representation and the formation of the Indian National Congress

Oct 12 Arjun Appadurai, 'Number in the colonial imagination', in C A Breckenridge & P van der Veer (eds.) *Orientalism & the Postcolonial Predicament*, Philadelphia, 1993;

Oct 14 Anil Seal, *The Emergence of Indian Nationalism*, Cambridge, 1968, pp. 245-297.

Oct 16 Recap and discussion

Week 9. Imagining the nation: early nationalist thought

Oct 19 Metcalf, *Concise History*, pp. 137-166.

Oct 21 Rabindranath Tagore, *Gora* **OR** *Nationalism*

Oct 23 *No class – mid term break*

Week 10. The Emergence of Muslim political identity

Oct 26 Peter Hardy, *The Muslims of British India*, pp. 61-91;

Oct 28 Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan's speech

Oct 30 Barbara Metcalf, 'Traditionalist Islamic Activism,'
<http://www.ssrc.org/sept11/essays/metcalf.htm>

ESSAY 2 DUE DATE 30 OCTOBER

Week 11. Caste, region and gender in nationalism

Nov 2 Jotirao Phule, 'Slavery'.

Nov 4 Richard Cashman, *The Myth of the Lokmanya: Tilak and Mass Politics in Maharashtra*, Berkeley, 1975.

Nov 6 Tarabai Shinde, *A Comparison between Women and Men*, trans. Rosalind O'Hanlon, Oxford, 1994.

Week 12. Gandhi and Ambedkar

Nov 9 MK Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* (extract)

Nov 11 BR Ambedkar, 'British Rule and the Depressed Classes'.

Nov 13 Discussion

GUEST LECTURE: Professor Rachel Dwyer, SOAS, University of London

Week 13. Gandhi and 'mass nationalism'

Nov 16 Judith Brown, *Gandhi's Rise to Power*,

Nov 18 Shahid Amin, 'Gandhi as Mahatma', R Guha (ed), *Subaltern Studies*, Vol 3;

Nov 20 Film screening: *Gandhi* (dir. Richard Attenborough)

Week 14. High politics between the wars

Nov 30 A Seal and A Jalal, 'Alternative to Partition: Muslim Politics between the Wars', *MAS*, 1981;

FILM REVIEW DUE NOV 30

Dec 2 Mohammed Iqbal's 1930 address

Dec 4 Asim Roy, 'The High Politics of India's Partition', *MAS* (1980);

Week 15. Independence and Partition:

Dec 7 BR Tomlinson, 'India and the British Empire, 1935-47', *IESHR*, 1976

Dec 9 A Jalal, *The Sole Spokeman: Jinnah, the Muslim League and the Demand for Pakistan*, Cambridge, 1985; Metcalf, *Concise History*, pp. 200-206.

Dec 11 Recap and discussion.

TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE DATE DEC 14