

## History 386: India (1930-present)

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**Short Description:** Students taking this course will learn about the economic, technological and cultural dimensions of social life in the Indian subcontinent and the relationship between the region and the rest of the world. We will do so by exploring three themes: 1) Power and Social Movements; 2) Media, Markets and Technology; and 3) Culture and Everyday Life.

Students successfully completing this course will receive four (4) credits toward the sixteen (16) credits required to satisfy the Social Science and Multicultural (International Cultures) requirements for either a BA or BS degree. History majors will also receive credit toward their major requirement

**Expanded description (What you will learn):** The Indian subcontinent has been thrust into the public imagination recently because of significant events on the world stage. These include the prospect of India becoming a technological and economic superpower, the fact that perpetrators of the tragic violence of September 11 2001 had a link to Pakistan and the violent end to the civil war in Sri Lanka. To contextualize these political, economic and cultural transformations this course will survey the history of the Indian subcontinent as both a colony of Britain and then as a cluster of independent countries in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. We will focus on the intersection between power, culture and capital in the history of the region by exploring three broad areas of study: *Power and Resistance*; *Media, Markets and Technology*; and *Culture and Everyday Life*.

**Questions that we will answer include:** How does Mohandas Gandhi's famous method of non-violent resistance work? How have television, film and related media been used to circulate ideas about gender, sexuality and nationalism (and what do they say)? How do food, British imperialism and understandings of 'community' intersect? Our materials will include an array of primary and secondary sources, novels and film, maps and architectural outlines.

**Requirements and Expectations:** Participation in class discussion, three papers, a Midterm and Final exam.

If you have physical or learning differences that require special accommodations official notice from Disability Services (see <http://ds.uoregon.edu>) is required. I will do everything in my power to address all documented needs.

## Sample Syllabus

### **Grading and Grade Distribution**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Participation         | 15 % (evaluation throughout the semester) |
| 2. Map assignment        | 5 %                                       |
| 3. Response papers (two) | 40 % (total)                              |
| 4. Mid-term exam         | 20 %                                      |
| 5. Final Exam            | 20%                                       |

*In order to keep costs of required texts down, assigned readings that are not in the following four books (available at the Duckstore) can be downloaded at the following website: <https://blackboard.uoregon.edu>*

1. *The Wandering Falcon* by Jameel Ahmad
2. *Conjugations: Marriage and Form in New Bollywood Cinema* by Sangita Gopal
3. *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* by Daniyal Mueenuddin
4. *The Glass Palace* by Amitav Ghosh

### **Reading Schedule and Class Reading/Themes:**

Meeting 1:

#### **Introduction: British India in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

-Syllabus Review

-Introduction to Major Events and Issues that defined South Asia in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **POWER AND RESISTANCE**

Meeting 2: **Map Assignment Distributed**

#### **Popular Resistance to Colonial Rule**

-‘Militant Peacekeeping and Subterfugic Violence of the Quit India Movement’, in *Militant Publics in India*, pp. 107-139

-Primary Source Document: *Quit India Movement (British Secret Report)/The Wickenden Report* (short selection, max 5 pages)

Meeting 3: **Map Assignment Due**

#### **Cultures of Power in India and Pakistan**

-**Indian Nationalism an Partition (1947)**: Vazira Zamindar, ‘Refugees, Boundaries, Citizens’ and ‘Passports and Boundaries’ in *The Long Partition and the Making of Modern South Asia: Refugees, Boundaries, Histories*, pp. 79-119, 161-189.

Meeting 4:

#### **Gandhi and His Ashrams**

-Primary Source Document: Mohandas Gandhi, *Village Swaraj*, pp. 1-48

Meeting 5: **First Response Paper is Due**

## Sample Syllabus

### **Hindu Nationalist Challengers**

-Kalyani Devaki Menon, 'Everyday Histories', in *Everyday Nationalism: Women of the Hindu Right in India*, pp. 26-53

-Primary Source Document: V.D. Savarkar, *Who is a Hindu?*, pp. 1-19

Meeting 6:

### **Partition of British India**

-Primary Source Reading: *Mottled Dawn; Fifty Sketches and Stories of Partition*, 'Toba Tek Singh', 'The Return', 'The Assignment', 'Colder Than Ice', 'The Dog of Titwal', 'The Last Salute' pp. 1-48.

Meeting 7:

### **Nehru, a 'Free' India and the Economy**

-Sunil Khilnani, 'Two: Temples of the Future', pp. 61-106

## **MEDIA, MARKETS AND TECHNOLOGY**

Meeting 8:

### **Media, Consumption and Publics**

-David Lelyveld, 'Upon the Subdominant: Administering Music on All-India Radio' in *Consuming Modernity*, pp. 49-65

Primary Source Reading:

- *Shopping in India* (a catalog and tourist brochure), 1954, Tourist Traffic Branch, Ministry of Transport, New Delhi, pp. 1-23

Meeting 9:

### **Women and Men: Love, Caste and Marriage in Hindi Film**

-Sangita Gopal, 'Family Matters: Affect, Authority, and the Codification of Hindi Cinema' in *Conjugations*, pp. 60-89.

-Primary Source Document: *Bombay* (film) directed by Mani Ratnam and *Dilwale Duhhaniya Le Jayenge* (The Brave Heart Will Take the Bride)

Meeting 10: 11 **In-class Midterm Exam**

Meeting 11:

### **Court Culture, Forest Communities and Markets (Colonial Burma)**

-Amitav Ghosh, *The Glass Palace*, pp. 1-75

Meeting 12:

### **Forest Communities and Markets I (Colonial Burma)**

-Amitav Ghosh, *The Glass Palace*, pp. 76-137

Meeting 13: **Second Response Paper is Due**

## Sample Syllabus

### **Forest Communities and Markets II (Colonial Burma)**

-Amitav Ghosh, *The Glass Palace*, pp. 100-154

Meeting 14:

### **Neoliberal Economics and 'The New India'**

-Siddhartha Deb, *The Beautiful and the Damned*, pp. 27-71, 207-250

## **CULTURE AND EVERYDAY LIFE**

Meeting 15:

### **Landowning and Labor in Punjab, Pakistan (Concerning The Culture of Rural Agriculture from the Perspective of Landowners and Laborers in Pakistan)**

-Daniyal Mueenuddin, *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*, pp. 1-96.

Meeting 16:

### **Everyday Gender**

-Daniyal Mueenuddin, *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*, pp. 97-142

Meeting 17:

### **Food, Community and Empire**

-David Hardiman, 'From Custom to Crime: The Politics of Drinking in Colonial South Gujarat', in *Histories for the Subordinated*, pp. 185-252

-Modhumita Roy, 'Some Like It Hot: Class, Gender and Empire in the Making of Mulligatawny Soup', in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XLV, No. 32, Aug. 7 2010, pp. 66-74.

Meeting 18:

### **Narratives From the Hinterlands: Northwest Frontier Province (Pakistan) I**

-Jamil Ahmad, *The Wandering Falcon*, pp. 1-114

Meeting 19:

### **Narratives From the Hinterlands: Northwest Frontier Province (Pakistan) II**

-Jamil Ahmad, *The Wandering Falcon*, pp. 115-243

### **Exam Review**