History 386: India (1930-present)
CRN: 38452

Monday/Wednesday, 10a-11:20a, Anstett 195
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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 20th and 21st 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.* Some questions to which we will seek answers ask: How did a distinctive form of popular politics that combines militant mass protest and cultural rituals emerge in urban centers of the region in the 20th century? Was Mohandas Gandhi’s conception of the ashram revolutionary and how was this ideal space supposed to operate? How have television, film and related media been a conduit to circulate ideas about gender, sexuality and nationalism? 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, two Response Papers, an Interpretive Paper, a Midterm and Final exam.

**Response Papers:** Two response papers, 4 pages each, which reflect on and analyze the Primary Source Documents are due by the dates indicated on this syllabus. You will find guidance on how to read Documents historically in the *Assignment Guidelines* posted on Blackboard however I also urge you to take also notes on my own discussions and citing of the primary documents since the methods of interpretation of primary source material are as diverse as the various kinds of evidence that is available. Please email Response Papers to me with the following subject header (without the quotes): ‘response paper 386’. While formal presentations will not be required, do come to class prepared to share your analysis, and to support it with textual evidence.

**Exams and Interpretive Paper:** In addition to a Mid-term and Final Exam, you must write a 7-10 page Interpretive Paper. The Interpretive Paper is a short research paper that analyzes a Primary Source Document of your choice that is pertinent to an issue or question in modern South Asian history. The Interpretive Paper is an opportunity for you to explore a question or topic that interests you or pursue a subject in more detail that we
touched on in class. There are resources to help you to select a topic, and to locate a suitable document. These include a Library Guide for the course that includes places and forms of relevant primary source documents (use the link available in Blackboard or go to https://library.uoregon.edu/node/3064 ). Please feel free to seek help and advice from me; and assistance from John Russell, the librarian for the Department of History in Knight Library. The Midterm Exam and Final Exam provide opportunities for you to review, to make sense of what we have read and discussed. I will explain the format the Midterm Exam and Final Exam in class.

**General class rules:** No loud food in class (i.e. food that makes a lot of noise as it is consumed). Cell/smartphones OFF. Wi-Fi on laptops OFF. Absences or late assignments will only be excused in the event of documented illness. For late assignments I will subtract one-third of a letter grade from the grade that it otherwise would have earned (e.g., a B paper will become a B- paper). The paper will continue to lose one third of a letter grade per day however after a week an automatic 0 is assigned. All work that you turn in must be your own. Any work submitted for credit that includes the words or ideas of anyone else must fully and accurately identify your source in a complete citation. If you are confused about this or do not understand the consequences of academic dishonesty at the UO—or the ethical issues behind these university policies—please read the UO plagiarism policy: http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/ .

**Grading and Grade Distribution**
1. Informed Participation 15 % (evaluation throughout the semester)
2. Map assignment 5 %
3. Response papers (two) 20 %
4. Mid-term exam 20 %
5. Interpretive Paper 20%
6. Final Exam 20%

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

1. *The Beautiful and the Damned* by Siddhartha Deb (make sure you get this one not F. Scott Fitzgerald’s original by the same titled).
2. *The Wandering Falcon* by Jameel Ahmad
3. *Conjugations: Marriage and Form in New Bollywood Cinema* by Sangita Gopal
4. *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* by Daniyal Mueenuddin
5. *The Glass Palace* by Amitav Ghosh

**Reading Schedule and Class Reading/Themes (may be adjusted as we progress):**

Mon, Jan. 7  
**Introduction: South Asia in the early 20th Century**
- Syllabus Review
- Introduction to Major Events and Issues that defined South Asia in the early 20th
POWER AND RESISTANCE

Wed, Jan 9 Map Assignment Distributed
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)

Mon, Jan 14 Map Assignment Due
Cultures of Power in India and Pakistan

Wed, Jan 16
Gandhi and His Ashrams
-Primary Source Document: Mohandas Gandhi, Village Swaraj, pp. 1-48

Mon, Jan 21 No Class, Martin Luther King Day

Wed, Jan 23 First Response Paper is Due
Hindu Nationalist Challengers
-Primary Source Document: V.D. Savarkar, Who is a Hindu?, pp. 1-19

Mon, Jan 28
Partition of British India

Mon, Jan 30
Nehru, a ‘Free’ India and the Economy

MEDIA, MARKETS AND TECHNOLOGY

Mon, Feb 4
Media, Consumption and Publics
-David Lelyveld, ‘Upon the Subdominant: Administering Music on All-India Radio’ in Consuming Modernity, pp. 49-65
Primary Source Reading:
Sample Syllabus

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

Wed, Feb 6
**Women and Men: Love, Caste and Marriage in Hindi Film**
-Primary Source Document: *Bombay* (film) directed by Mani Ratnam and *Dilwale Dhulhniya Le Jayenge* (The Brave Heart Will Take the Bride)

Mon, Feb 11 In-class Midterm Exam

Wed, Feb 13
**Court Culture, Forest Communities and Markets (Colonial Burma)**

Mon, Feb 18
**Forest Communities and Markets I (Colonial Burma)**

Wed, Feb 20 **Second Response Paper is Due**
**Forest Communities and Markets II (Colonial Burma)**

Mon, Feb 25
**Neoliberal Economics and ‘The New India’**

**CULTURE AND EVERYDAY LIFE**

Wed, Feb 27
**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.

Mon, March 4
**Everyday Gender**
-Daniyal Mueenuddin, *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*, pp. 97-142

Wed, March 6
**Food, Community and Empire**
Mon, March 11 **Interpretive Paper is Due**  
**Narratives From the Hinterlands: Northwest Frontier Province (Pakistan) I**  
-Jamil Ahmad, *The Wandering Falcon*, pp. 1-114

Wed, March 13  
**Narratives From the Hinterlands: Northwest Frontier Province (Pakistan) II**  
-Jamil Ahmad, *The Wandering Falcon*, pp. 115-243

**Exam Review**

**Related to Course Requirements:**
*All deadlines are firm. Be prepared to encounter penalties for breaking deadlines. If you have any reasons for not meeting this course’s requirements please contact me to discuss them; it is advisable if you contact me well in advance of a request.*

**Papers:** Note, all page limits exclude your name and titles etc. Please use Times Roman font, point 12, double-space your essays, one-inch margins on all sides.

**Class participation**
Your participation grade will be determined by the quality of your contributions to class discussions. In addition to learning about modern South Asian history, I strongly encourage you interpret the primary sources so that you can sketch out how you might tell a narrative, or story, interpreting the documents. Please also consider the ideas that you come across in this course and form your own position in relation to them. Of course, this may also be a process of connecting the ideas to other positions/perspectives, histories, what you already know, or what you are learning elsewhere.

**Knowledge, Writing, and Academic Honesty**
Your work in this class is subject to the University plagiarism policy. Presenting the work of other authors without citing them—or as your own—is a form of plagiarism and is unacceptable and in violation of the policy. This means that copying or paraphrasing any portion of a text or image from a printed or electronic source without citing the author and/or site is also a form of plagiarism. If you are confused about this or do not understand the consequences of academic dishonesty at the UO—or the ethical issues behind these university policies—please read the UO plagiarism policy: [http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/) If you are uncertain how the policy applies to your work in this course, please ask me.