WORLD CULTURES: INDIA
Fall 2004
Tuesday and Thursday: 9:30—10:45
Silver/Main 714

Manu Goswami
Office Hours: 53 Washington Square South, Room 614
Tuesday: 1:00—2:30
E-mail: manu.goswami@nyu.edu; Phone: 998-8632

Preceptors:
Simon Marc Wycliffe Jackson  Oghenetoja H Okoh  Nathan Marcus
Email: smj228@nyu.edu  email: oho200@nyu.edu  Email: nm577@nyu.edu

Description
This course introduces students to the society, culture, and economy of modern India—from the
foundation of British colonial rule in the late eighteenth century to the nationalist struggle in the
early twentieth century—through the lens of broader issues in historical and cultural inquiry.
We will examine shifts in society and culture during the modern period from different
deperspectives: British colonial agents, religious groups, the middle and educated classes, women
and peasants, and the many-faceted struggle for independence before and during the period of
Gandhi’s entry into nationalist politics. Secondary sources (books and articles) will be read in
conjunction with primary sources (political treatises, novels, and film) that speak to the more
general issues at hand: colonial domination, the relationship between cultural and economic
shifts, political identities and nationalism, collective memory and violence, and the presence of
the colonial past in post-colonial societies.

Course Requirements and Format
You are required to read all assigned works, attend all lectures and meetings of your discussion
section, and complete all exams and tests in a timely fashion.

Oral Participation
Attendance in discussion sections is mandatory and class participation constitutes a significant
part of the final grade. Since this is a large lecture course and there will be time only for a few
questions after lectures, discussion sections are a critical component of the course. It is vital that
you treat discussion sections as the principal forum for discussing class readings and lectures
both with the preceptors and among yourselves. While you should seek help from your preceptor
in understanding readings and lectures, it is expected that every student will come to discussion
sections ready to pose questions and present interpretations and arguments based on readings
and lectures.

Examinations
Students are required to write 2 short in-class tests as well as a take-home midterm and final
exam. The 2 short in-class tests (30 minutes) will be given by preceptors in discussion sections
on class readings and will be mainly in short-essay form. The take-home midterm exam (6-8
pages) will consist of 2 essay questions. The mid-term will be distributed on October 7 and is due
at the beginning of class on October 12. The Final take-home exam (6-8 pages) will consist of 2
essay questions of your choice, from a set of three. The final exam will be distributed on
December 9 and is due by Friday 5 pm, December 16, in the History Department Office on the 7th
floor of the Juan Carlos Building.

Grading:
Class participation: 25%
In-class Tests: 25%
Midterm Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 25%

Readings
Required Texts.
The following books are available for purchase at NYU Bookstore. All supplementary readings are available in the form of a course package from New University Copy and Graphics, 11 Waverly Place (between Mercer and Green).


Schedule of Readings

I. Colonial Foundations
September 7----Introduction

September 9---Introduction, Part 2
Bose and Jalal, Modern South Asia, pp. 1-11, 35-56 (recommended); 57-87.

September 14 and September 16---Ruling Categories and Categories of Rule

Thomas B. Macaulay, “Minute on Indian Education”, [Primary Document Handout].

Bernard Cohn, “Law and the Colonial State” in Colonialism and its Forms of Knowledge, pp. 57-75.

II. Idioms and Ideologies of Colonial Rule
September 21-----The Rebellion of 1857
Bose and Jalal, Modern South Asia, pp. 88-97.

September 23 and September 28---Creating the Customary
Bernard Cohn, “Representing Authority in Colonial India”, pp. 632-679, in Reader.

Bernard Cohn, “Cloth, Clothes, and Colonialism” in Colonialism and its Forms of Knowledge, pp. 106-162.

September 30 and October 5---Economy and State
Bose and Jalal, Modern South Asia, Chapter 10.

Mike Davis, “Victoria’s Ghosts” and “Skeletons at the Feast”, pp. 25-59 and 140-175, in Reader.

[Short Answer Exam in Discussion Sections]

October 7---Movie: Lagaan, part 1 and Review Session

[Movie Lagaan, part 2 and 3 in discussion sections]
III. Cultural Politics

October 12 and October 19 [Note: no class on Thursday, October 14]---Regulating the Social


Cornelia Sorabji, India Calling, pp. 11-67, in Reader.

IV. Nationalism and its Discontents

October 19 and 21---Inventing Nationhood
Bose and Jalal, Modern South Asia, Chapter 11.

Ranajit Guha, “Discipline and Mobilize”, pp. 100-150, in Reader.


October 26 and 28---National Narratives
Rabindranath Tagore, Home and the World, in Reader (Novel).

Movie: Home and the World in Discussion Sections

November 9, 11, 16, 18-----Gandhi and Mass Politics
Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph, Gandhi: the Traditional Roots of Charisma, pp. 3-61, in Reader.


Movie: Gandhi in Discussion Sections

[Short-answer Exam in Discussion Sections]

November 23 and November 30 [Note: No class on November 25]---National Fictions
Salman Rushdie, Midnight’s Children (Novel)

December 2 and 7----Modernist Visions: Democracy and Development
Jawaharlal Nehru, Discovery of India, 49-68, in Reader.


V. The Presence of the Past: Memory, Violence, Community

December 9 and 13---An interminable Event: The Partition of 1947
Bose and Jalal, Modern South Asia, Chapter 16 and 17.

Saadat Hasan Manto, “Toba Tek Singh” and “Khol Do”, in Reader (short-stories).