V55. 0516 World Cultures: India

MAP Spring 2005

Instructor: Arvind Rajagopal

Office: Pless Rm 447E, 82 Washington Sq. East (opp. Silver Bldg)

Tel: 212.998.9032

Email: ar67 @ nyu.edu

Office Hours: 11:00-11:30 TR and by appointment

The preceptors are On Barak, Chris Fraga and April Strickland. Their sections are scheduled as follows:

**On Barak:**

a) Section 002  Friday 9:30-10:45;

b) Section 003  Friday  11:12-12:15

**April Strickland:**

c) Section 004.  Monday 9:30-10:45.

d) Section 005.  Monday 11:12-15

**Chris Fraga:**

e) Section 006  Monday 12:30-1:45;

f) Section 007  Monday  23:15
Course outline:

The South Asian subcontinent contains more languages, religions and people than whole continents put together. Its history stretches across millennia, whereas a few centuries are adequate to tell the history of a country like, e.g., the United States. It follows that no single account or form of analysis is adequate in understanding modern South Asia. In addition to lecture and films in class, we will draw on literary, historical and analytical texts to engage with this complex and diverse region.

Required texts:


Technology permitting, there are some readings that will be made available online, on Blackboard. (classes.nyu.edu) Additional readings will be posted as required. Please also check Blackboard for class-related announcements.

Course requirements:

There will be two short research papers of five pages each (totaling 20% of the grade), a midterm (20%) and a final exam (30%). 20% of your grade will be determined in your recitation section, based on attendance and participation. Attendance in lecture is required. **You are required to be on time for lecture; late arrivals disturb class and are therefore strongly discouraged.**

Papers and exams will be assessed for: a) your understanding of texts and lectures; b) accuracy of exposition; c) clarity of argumentation, and d) elegance of presentation. Mere appearance in class and submission of assignments and exams DOES NOT ensure a pass.
Nor will mere reproduction of facts without a clear framework of understanding get you through. Writing assignments are an important part of the course, and you are urged to treat them seriously.

**New Resource on Ambedkar:**

The Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning has launched a Multi-Media Study Environment for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's *The Annihilation of Caste*, which is available at [http://www.ccnmtl.columbia.edu/projects/mmt/ambedkar/](http://www.ccnmtl.columbia.edu/projects/mmt/ambedkar/). The site includes the full text, a timeline of Dr. Ambedkar's life, related documents, and annotations of terms and concepts to assist students in their reading and study. The annotations were written to be consistent with Dr. Ambedkar's way of thinking, so they rely heavily on his own writings, the writings of his contemporaries, and historical documents (including the Imperial Gazetteer of India).


**Class Schedule:**

**Week One**

Jan 18: Introduction

Jan 20: *God of Small Things*

**Week Two**

Jan 25: *God of Small Things* (completed)

Jan 27: *Concise History*, Chapter 1

**Week Three** (Feb 1, 3): *Concise History*, Chapter 2-4

**Week Four** (Feb 8, 10): *Concise History*, Chapter 5-7
FEB 7: LAST DAY TO DROP CLASS WITHOUT A GRADE

Week Five (Feb 15, 17): David Arnold, *Gandhi: Profiles in Power* (Chap. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6)

**Week Six (Feb 22, 24): Gandhi: Profiles in Power (Chap. 7, 8); The Penguin Gandhi Reader (pp. xi-66)**

Feb 24: FIRST RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT DUE

Week Seven (March 1,3): *The Penguin Gandhi Reader* (pp.67-283)

Week Eight

March 8: Mid-term review; Mid-term take-home exam distributed

March 10: Mid term exam due

MARCH 14-19: SPRING BREAK

Week Nine (March 22, 24): Nehru: *The Discovery of India* (Preface; Chapter 3; Selections from Chapters 5&6)

Week Ten (March 29, 31): *The Discovery of India* (Chapters 7-9)

Week Eleven (April 5,7): *Essential Writings of B.R. Ambedkar* (Selections t.b.a.)

Week Twelve (April 12, 14): *Essential Writings of B.R. Ambedkar* (Selections t.b.a.)

April 14: SECOND RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT DUE

Week Thirteen (April 19, 21): *Politics After Television* (Pages 284-291 in Appendix; pages 30-42 in Chapter 1, all of Chapter 2, pages 151-171 in Chap 4; and Chap 6)

Week Fourteen (April 26, 28): Research Presentations by students

Week Fifteen: May 3: Review; Final take home exam handed out.

May 5: FINAL EXAM DUE