WORLD CULTURES: INDIA
Spring 2006
Tuesday and Thursday: 2:00—3:15

Manu Goswami
Office Hours: 53 Washington Square South, Room 614
Tuesday: 4:30 to 5:30 pm and by appointment
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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
perspectives: 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 complete all exams and tests
in a timely fashion.

Examinations
Students are required to write a take-home midterm and final exam. The take-home midterm
exam (3-4 pages) will consist of 1 essay question of your choice, from a set of two. The mid-term
will be distributed on March 2 and is due at the beginning of class on March 9. 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 April 25 and is due by 5pm, Tuesday, May 2, in my mailbox on
the 7th floor of the Juan Carlos Building, 53 Washington Square South.

Grading:
Midterm Exam: 45%
Final Exam: 55%

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).

1. Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal, Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy,


Schedule of Readings

I. Colonial Foundations
January 17—Introduction

January 19—Introduction, Part 2
Bose and Jalal, *Modern South Asia*, pp. 1-11, 35-56 (recommended); 57-87.

**II. Idioms and Ideologies of Colonial Rule**

January 24 and January 26—The Rebellion of 1857

No Class January 31

February 2—Creating the Customary
Bernard Cohn, "Representing Authority in Colonial India", pp. 632-679, in Reader.

February 7 and 9—Economy and State

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

Feb 14, 16, 21—Economy and State
*Lagaan* and Review/Discussion

**III. Nationalism and its Discontents**

February 23, 28 and March 2—Inventing Nationhood

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


Rozina Visram, "Women in India and Pakistan: The Struggle for Independence from British Rule", pp. 16-21, in Reader.

March 7 and 9—National Narratives
Rabindranath Tagore, *Home and the World*, in Reader [Novel].

*Home and the World* [Movie directed by Satyajit Ray]

No Class March 21

March 23, 28, 30 and April 4—Gandhi and Mass Politics

Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph, *Gandhi: the Traditional Roots of Charisma*, pp. 3-61, in Reader.


R.K. Narayan, "Waiting for the Mahatma", in Reader [Novel].

April 6 and April 11: Movie: Gandhi

April 13 and 18: National Fictions


**IV. The Presence of the Past: Memory, Violence, Community**

April 21 and 25—An interminable Event: The Partition of 1947


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