V55. 0516 World Cultures: India

MAP Fall 2005
Instructor: Arvind Rajagopal
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Office Hours: 9:30-10:00 TR and by appointment

The preceptors are On Barak, Deborah Matzner and Priyadarshini Shanker. Sections are scheduled as follows:

Deborah Matzner:
Section 002  Rct Fri 9:30       25W4 Room C-4
Section 003  Rct Fri 11:00     48CS Room 102

Priyadarshini Shanker:
Section 004  Rct Mon 12:30     25W4 Room C-10
Section 005  Rct Mon 2:00      25W4 Room C-19

On Barak:
Section 006  Rct Mon 3:30      721 Silver
Section 007  Rct Mon 4:55      621 Silver

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 and historical texts to engage with this complex and diverse region.

Required texts:
Jawaharlal Nehru, *The Discovery of India*, 2004. (on classes.nyu.edu)

Additional readings will be posted as required on Blackboard (classes.nyu.edu). Please also check Blackboard for class-related announcements.
Course requirements:
One short research paper (5-8 pages) 20%
Midterm 20%
5 quizzes 20%
Final exam 20%
Recitation section 20%.

Total: 100%

*There will be 8 spot quizzes, tests to gauge your preparedness and understanding of class material, no more than ten minutes in duration, held at different times during the term. The best five will be chosen to compute your grade.

*The research paper will be on a subject that you choose in consultation with your TA. Recommended subjects will be posted on Blackboard to help you decide.

*The section grade will be decided on the basis of your attendance and participation in recitation.

*You are required to be on time for lecture; late arrivals disturb class and are therefore strongly discouraged.

Correction Policy
Your writing 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. The essay writing assignment is an important part of the course, and you are urged to treat it seriously.

Note on Plagiarism
The writing you submit must be authored by you. Following university policy, we are obliged to penalize anyone caught duplicating other people’s work and passing it off as their own.

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).

Additionally, IndiaStat, a new e-resource on Columbia University’s Library web, provides India-specific socio-economic statistical facts and figures culled from various
secondary level sources:

Class Schedule:

**Week One**
Sept 6: Introduction.
Sept 8: Tagore’s *Home and the World* (Chapters 1-6)

**Week Two:**
Sept 13: Tagore’s *Home and the World* (Chapters 7-12)
Sept.15: Nehru, *Discovery of India*, Chapter 3 (from classes.nyu.edu). and Metcalfs’ *Concise History of India*, Chapter 1.

**Week Three:**
Sept 20: Metcalfs’ *Concise History of India*, Chapter 2 &3.
Sept 22: Satyajit Ray’s film *Shatranj ke Khilari* [The Chess Players]

**Week Four:**
Sept 27: Metcalfs’ *Concise History of India*, Chapter 4-6.
**Sept 29:** Contd.

**Week Five:**
Oct 4: David Arnold, *Gandhi* (Chs. 1, 3, 4)
**Oct 6:** David Arnold, *Gandhi* (Chs. 5,6)

**Week Six:**
Oct 11: David Arnold, Gandhi (Chs. 7,8)
Oct 13: *Penguin Gandhi Reader* (pp. xi-91)

**Week Seven:**
Oct 18: Review
Oct 20: Midterm

**Week Eight:**
Oct 25: Nehru, *Discovery of India*, Chapters 7, 8
Nov 3: contd

**Week Ten:**
Nov 8: *Essential Writings of Ambedkar*, Chapters 1, 2, 10, 12, 13, 14
Nov 10: Contd. RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT DUE TODAY (NOV 10)

**Week Eleven:**
Nov 17: Anand Patwardhan’s *In the Name of God* (film). Reading: *Politics After Television*, Appendix; Chapter 2)
**Week Twelve:**
Nov 22: *Politics After Television* (Chapter 4, 6, Conclusion)
Nov 14: Contd.

**Week Thirteen:**
Nov 29: In-class discussion (topic to be announced)
Dec 1: contd.

**Week Fourteen:**
Dec 6: Round-up; review.
Dec 8: Concluding lecture.

**Week Fifteen:**
Dec 13: Final Exam