World Cultures: India - V55.0516
Fall 2006/MW 9:30-10:45 AM/Silver 713

Professor: Tejaswini Ganti
Preceptors: April Strickland
Pilar Rau
Amiko M. K. Marasawa
Office: 25 Waverly Place, # 506
Hours: Wed. 11:00 AM—1:00 PM or by appointment
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Recitations
Th: 8:00-9:15
Th: 9:30-10:45
F: 9:30-10:45
F: 11:00-12:15
F: 9:30-10:45
F: 11:00-12:15

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces the history, culture, society, and politics of modern India. Home to one billion people, eight major religions, twenty official languages (with hundreds of dialects), histories spanning several millenia, and a tremendous variety of customs, traditions, and ways of life, India is almost iconic for its diversity. We examine the challenges posed by such diversity as well as how this diversity has been understood, represented, and managed, both historically and contemporarily. Topics to be covered include caste, gender, social identity, social inequality, religion, religious nationalism, colonialism, anticolonial nationalism, nation-building, violence, and popular culture.

requirements
- All assignments must be completed for a passing grade in the course.
- Deadlines: EXTENSIONS WILL NOT BE GIVEN [except for authorized medical reasons/emergencies] LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, i.e., YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO INSTEAD.

I. Exams: 50%
Both exams will be in-class and consist of a combination of short answer and essay questions.
• Midterm Exam - 25% - October 16
• Final Exam - 25% - December 13 [note: this is the last day of class]

II. Assignments – 35% [More specific instructions and descriptions will be available on the course’s Blackboard site].
1. Media Representation – DUE SEPT. 15 – 5%
   This 2-3 page paper asks you to pick a recent newspaper or magazine article about India from a mainstream American publication, i.e., The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Time, Newsweek, etc., and analyze how India – in whatever domain such as customs, traditions, peoples, politics, economy, religion, etc. – is being represented. This assignment also requires you to reflect upon how your images or stereotypes about India have been formed and whether the media reinforces or challenges those images.

2. Caste-Race-Ethnicity – DUE OCT. 6 – 10%
   This 3-4 page paper asks you to compare caste as it operates in India with how race and ethnicity operate in the United States; it asks you to reflect upon both the parallels and differences that may exist between these various social categories.
3. **The Politics of History** - **DUE NOV. 20** - **20%**
   This 6-8 page paper asks you to research one of two recent controversies that erupted around the teaching of Indian history, one in the U.S. and the other in India. It asks you to analyze what is at stake in the writing and teaching of history; why the writing of history can provoke so much emotion and heated debate; and how history is implicated in the construction of identity.

**III. Recitations – 15%** - Attendance is mandatory and the grade is broken down in the following way:
- Discussion/Exercises – 10%: You may receive short homework assignments periodically in your recitation.
- Attendance – 5%; if you miss more than 3 recitations, you will receive a zero for this portion of your grade.

**IV. Extra Credit – 5%**
*Event Report* [2-3 pages]: **Due either Oct. 20 or Oct. 27**
- You may attend one of the following events and write a typed response to the ideas/arguments presented. You should summarize the speaker's main points and then present your response to these points as well as any questions they raise in your mind. Wherever possible reflect upon how the issues raised in the event relate to the topics covered in our class.
- While you are welcome and encouraged to attend both events, you may only hand in one paper for credit.
  1. October 12, 6-8pm, Dean's Conference Room, 721 Broadway, 12th Floor – “The** Enchantment Effect: Impersonation and Identity in Contemporary India” by Prof. Purnima Mankekar, Stanford University – Report due Oct. 20

**RECAP OF DUE DATES**
- Sept. 15: Media Representation Paper
- Oct. 6: Caste/Race/Ethnicity Paper
- Oct. 16: Midterm
- Oct. 20: Extra Credit Assignment
- Oct. 27: Extra Credit Assignment
- Nov. 20: Politics of History Paper
- Dec. 13: Final Exam

**COURSE MATERIALS**
- Required Books [available at the campus bookstore as well as on reserve at Bobst Library]
  Chatterjee, Gayatri
  2002  *Mother India*. BFI Film Classics.
  Eck, Diana
Ganti, Tejaswini
Ludden, David
2002  *India and South Asia: A Brief History*. One World Books.
Narayan, Kirin.

- There will also be a series of readings available for you to read/download/print from the course's Blackboard site, these will be marked with a B on the syllabus.
- The film, *Mother India*, will be on reserve at Avery Fisher [media library at Bobst] for you to view before we discuss the film in the end of the semester.

**Special Accommodations**
If you have a disability which may require classroom, test-taking, or other reasonable modifications, please see me as soon as possible and be sure to register with the Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980).

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Wk 1**
Wed. 9/6  **Introduction**
Reading[B]:
Singer, Milton

**Part I: Social Organization**

**Wk 2**
Mon. 9/11  **Caste as Social Category**
Reading[B]:
Mines, Diane & Sarah Lamb

Wed. 9/13  **Orientalism, Colonialism & Caste**
Reading[B]:
Dirks, Nicholas B.

**Wk 3**
Mon. 9/18  **Caste and Class in Practice**
Reading[B]:
Racine, Josiane & Jean-Luc Racine with Viramma
2002  *Viramma, Life of an Untouchable*, chs. 16, 17, 19, 25 & “Routes to emancipation: a dalit life story in context”
Dickey, Sara
The Politics of Caste

Readings: [B]
Dirk, Nicholas
Raina, Badri

Part II: Religion

Wk 4 Popular Hindu Practice
Mon. 9/25
Readings:
Dasan, chs. 1 & 2
Wed. 9/27
Readings:
Dasan, ch. 3 & Afterword

Wk 5
Mon. 10/2 Dasara, Gandhi Jayanti & Yom Kippur – No Class
Wed. 10/4 Storytelling and Spiritual Leadership
Readings
Storytellers, Saints, and Scoundrels, Introduction, chs. 1-4

Wk 6
Mon. 10/9 Columbus Day Holiday – no class
Wed. 10/11 Religion and Narrative Traditions
Reading:
Storytellers, Saints, and Scoundrels, chs. 5,6, 8-11, epilogue

Wk 7
Mon. 10/16 MIDTERM [In Class]
Wed. 10/18 Hindutva and the Politics of Religion
Readings: [B]
Thapar, Romila
Davis, Richard H.
Mishra, Pankaj
2006 “Ayodhya: The Modernity of Hinduism.” In Temptations of the West: How to Be Modern in India, Pakistan, Tibet and Beyond, pgs. 80-110.

Part III: History, Nationalism, and Nationhood

Wk 8 The Politics of Precolonial History
Mon. 10/23  The Aryan Debate

Readings:
India and South Asia: A Short History, ch. 1
Trautmann, Thomas [B]
Thapar, Romila [B]

Suggested Reading
Witzel, Michael & Steve Farmer [B]

Wed. 10/25  The Arrival of Islam

Readings:
India and South Asia: A Short History, ch. 2
Thapar, Romila [B]
1999  Somanatha and Mahmud. Frontline. 16(8). April 10-23.

Wk 9  Colonialism

Mon. 10/31
Reading:
India and South Asia: A Short History, ch. 3

Wed. 11/1
Reading:
India and South Asia: A Short History, ch. 4
Dutt, Romesh Chunder [B]

Wk 10  Anti-colonial Nationalism

Mon. 11/6
Reading:
India and South Asia: A Short History, ch. 5

Wed. 11/8
Reading:
India and South Asia: A Short History, ch. 6
Bose, Subhash Chandra [B]
Gandhi, M.K. [B]
Nehru, Jawaharlal [B]

**Wk 11  Partition**
Mon. 11/13  Screening: *Division of Hearts* [1987, Sati Khanna & Peter Chappell] – 57 min
Reading[B]
Butalia, Urvashi

**Wed. 11/15  Representing Partition**
Reading[B]:
Bedi, Rajinder Singh
1995  “Lajwanti” In *India Partitioned: The Other Face of Freedom*, ed. Mushirul Hasan, New Delhi:
Lotus Books, pp. 177-89.

Choudhary, Salil
1999  “The Dressing Table” In *Stories about the Partition of India*, ed. Alok Bhalla, New Delhi: Harper
Collins, pp. 33-49.

Faiz, Ahmad Faiz
1995  “The Morning of Freedom” In *India Partitioned: The Other Face of Freedom*, ed. Mushirul Hasan,

Collins, pp. 400-01.

Manto, Sa’adat Hasan
Katha, pp. 63-72.

Prabhakar, Vishnu
1995  “My Native Land” In *India Partitioned: The Other Face of Freedom*, ed. Mushirul Hasan, New

Rai, Amrit
695-705.

Sahni, Bhisham
1995  “We Have Arrived in Amritsar” In *India Partitioned: The Other Face of Freedom*, ed. Mushirul

Tauswi, Fikr

**Wk 12  Postcolonial nationalism**
Mon. 11/20
Reading[B]
*India and South Asia: A Short History*, ch. 7
Amartya Sen
2005  “Secularism and its Discontents” In *The Argumentative Indian: Writings on Indian History, Culture
and Identity*, pp. 294-316.
Wed. 11/22
Reading[B]:
Mishra, Pankaj
2006 “Kashmir: The Cost of Nationalism” In Temptations of the West: How to Be Modern in India, Pakistan, Tibet and Beyond, pgs. 147-211.
Roy, Srirupa

Part IV: Visual and Popular Culture
Wk 13 The Origins of “Bollywood”
Mon. 11/27
Reading:
Bollywood, chs. 1 & 2

Wed. 11/29
Reading:
Bollywood, chs. 3-5

Wk 14 Gender/Nation/Class in Hindi Cinema: The Case of Mother India
Mon. 12/4
Reading:
Mother India, pgs. 9-59

Wed. 12/6
Reading:
Mother India, pgs. 59-83

Wk 15
Mon. 12/11 Review/Wrap-UP
Wed. 12/13 FINAL EXAM [In-Class]