

History 243: SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY AND CIVILIZATIONS

Fall 2010

INSTRUCTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Tithi Bhattacharya
Office: University Hall 309
Phone: 494-4144
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Office Hours:
Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 am to
12 noon and by appointment

Class Hours and Room Number:

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM, University Hall 201

Required Texts:

A Concise History of India by Barbara Daly Metcalf and Thomas R. Metcalf

The book is available at:

Von's Book Store
315 West State Street, West Lafayette
Phone: (765) 743-1915

Handouts:

All handouts will be posted on Blackboard, unless otherwise specified. You are responsible for having a **printed hard copy** of each handout in class with you during lectures.

Policy on Absences

1. All students are expected to attend ALL classes
2. If you are absent from class for an excused reason (other than official university business), you may make up work from that day. Excused absences include doctor's appointments, medical emergencies, family events such as weddings and funerals, job interviews. In order to be excused you must present DOCUMENTATION supporting the above reasons. I strongly advise you to contact me prior to class for your absence to be excused even on the above grounds. You may do this by phone, email, or in person.
3. Attendance will be taken EVERYDAY. You may have **three** absences, whether excused or unexcused without penalty. All non-school-related absences will result in the loss of one point from the final grade.
4. If you miss class and/or an assignment you absolutely must contact me to set up an appointment to make up the missed assignment. Please remember it is YOUR responsibility to set up the meeting to make up for missed work.

Assignments

You are expected to finish the weekly readings prior to the lecture. Your grades will be based on homework assignments, one mid-term exam, a final paper and two reaction papers of 3-4 pages. The format of these exams will be explained in more detail before you have to take them.

Mid-term Exam	30%
Reaction Papers 15x2	30%
Final Paper	20%
Attendance & Home Work Assignments	20%

Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Purdue University's Official Academic Dishonesty Policy is applicable to **all** assignments and papers in this course. **Any** instances of cheating or plagiarism, however slight, on **any** assignment or paper will result automatically in a failing grade for the **ENTIRE** course and referral to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. If you have any confusion on this matter please visit the Online Writing Lab on the web for their useful handout on plagiarism.

You are always welcome to consult me about your all your assignments.

Grades

91-100 (A)

86-90 (A minus)

76-85 (B)

71-75 (B minus)

61-70 (C)

56-60 (C minus)

41-55 (D)

0-40 (F)

Topics for Reaction Papers and Final Paper

Reaction Paper #1

You are a **Muslim** traveller in India during the rule of a Mughal ruler of your choosing. Use the documents by Xavier, Bernier and the Ain-i-Akbari to outline the social conditions of the country.

Reaction Paper #2

You are the disposed ruler of a princely state. Write a letter to a fellow prince explaining why he should join in the revolt of 1857 against the British East India Company.

Final Paper

For your final paper you have to critically evaluate an important essay by one of the leading figures in the field of South Asian history: Ranajit Guha. You will be provided with a handout on how to write this review. But I strongly suggest that you start reading the essay as soon as possible and begin preparing a list of questions and a catalogue of unfamiliar terms and concepts.

Tentative Weekly Schedule

Please note that this schedule and the topics covered are subject to change depending upon a variety of factors. Changes will be announced in class. If you are not able to attend class, it is your responsibility to find out what was covered

Week 1: Introduction

August 24: Introduction

August 26: Film: City of Djinn

Week 2: August 31-September 2: Premodern India

Weekly Readings:

1. Metcalf: Chapter 1
2. St. Francis Xavier: Letter from India, to the Society of Jesus at Rome, 1543
3. Excerpt from Ain-i-Akbari

Week 3-4: Ideologies of Empire: September 7-16: Rise of Regional States

Weekly Readings: 1. Metcalf: Chapter 2
2. François Bernier: An Account of India and the Great Moghul, 1655 CE

Week 5: September 21-23: Discussion of Primary Source Documents**1st.Reaction Paper due in class Thursday, September 23****Week 6-7: September 28-October 7: The East India Company**

Weekly Readings: 1. Metcalf: Chapter 3
2. T. B. Macauley, Minute on Education, 1935

Week 8: October 12-14**October 12: OCTOBER BREAK: NO CLASS****October 14: MIDTERM EXAMINATION****Week 9: October 19-21: The Revolt of 1857: The Context**

Weekly Readings: 1. Metcalf: Chapter 4
2. William Sleeman, Rambles and Recollections

Week 10: October 26-28: Discussion of Primary Source Documents

Weekly Reading Karl Marx on 1857: *New-York Daily Tribune*
August 14, 1857

Week 11: November 2-4: The Revolt of 1857: Events and Consequences

Weekly Reading: Metcalf: Chapter 4 continued

Week 12: November 9-11: Economic and Social Changes after 1857

Weekly Readings: 1. Metcalf: Chapter 5
2. Excerpt from Pandita Ramabai

Week 13: November 16-18: Political Life and Civil Society

Weekly Readings: 1. Metcalf: Chapter 5 contd.
2. Dadabhai Naoroji, "The Benefits of British Rule"

Nov 18: SECOND REACTION PAPER DUE IN CLASS
There will be NO LECTURE.

Week 14: November 23: Begin Reading Essay for Final Paper

Weekly Reading: Ranajit Guha, "A Conquest Foretold" *Social Text*, No. 54
Spring 1998, pp. 85-99. Available through the Purdue
Library Website at www.jstor.org

THANKSGIVING BREAK: November 24-28

Week 15: November 30-December 2: Discussion of Ranajit Guha's essay

Week 16: Review and Discussion

Final Paper due in class Thursday December, 9