

# History 243: SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY AND CIVILIZATIONS

Spring 2011

## INSTRUCTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Tithi Bhattacharya  
Office: University Hall 309  
Phone: 494-4144  
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Office Hours:  
Tuesday and Thursday 12 noon to  
1:00 pm 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 one mid-term exam, a final paper and two reaction papers of 3-4 pages.

Mid-term Exam	<b>30%</b>
Reaction Papers 15x2	<b>30%</b>
Final Paper	<b>30%</b>
Attendance	<b>10%</b>

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

## Reaction Paper #1

You are a **Muslim** traveler 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.

### 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

<b>Week 1:</b> January 11-13:	<b>Introduction</b> Film: Sita Sings the Blues
<b>Week 2:</b> January 18-20: Weekly Readings:	<b>Premodern India</b> 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
<b>Week 3-4:</b> January 25-February 3: Weekly Readings:	<b>Rise of Regional States</b> 1. Metcalf: Chapter 2 2. François Bernier: An Account of India and the Great Moghul, 1655 CE
<b>Week 5:</b> February 8-10	Discussion of Primary Source Documents 1 <sup>st</sup> . Reaction Paper due in class <b>Thursday, February 10</b>
<b>Week 6:</b> February 15-17 Weekly Readings:	<b>The East India Company</b> 1. Metcalf: Chapter 3 2. T. B. Macauley, Minute on Education, 1935
<b>Week 7:</b> February 22 February 24	<b>Midterm Exam</b> <b>NO CLASS</b>
<b>Week 8:</b> March 1-3 Weekly Readings:	The Revolt of 1857: The Context 1. Metcalf: Chapter 4 2. William Sleeman, Rambles and Recollections
<b>Week 9:</b> March 8-10	Research Readings on Final Essay/Review
<b>Week 10:</b> March 15-17	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
<b>Week 11:</b> March 22 March 25	Discussion of Primary Sources <b>Second Reaction Paper Due in Class March 25</b>
<b>Week 12-13:</b> March 29-April 7 Weekly Readings:	<b>Economic and Social Change after 1857</b> 1. Metcalf: Chapter 5 2. Excerpt from Pandita Ramabai
<b>Week 14-15:</b> April 12- 21 Weekly Readings:	<b>Political Life and Civil Society</b> 1. Metcalf: Chapter 5 contd. 2. Dadabhai Naoroji, "The Benefits of British Rule"
<b>Week 16:</b> April 26-28	Review and Discussion FINAL PROJECT DUE IN CLASS APRIL 28

**FINAL PAPER DETAILS:**

**Final Paper:** Review of David Washbrook, "Towards a History of the Present". Available on Blackboard

**Length of Paper:** 3-4 pages, Times New Roman, font size 12

**Bibliography:** Not Needed

**Style:** Book Review Style from the American Historical Review (AHR)