HISTORY 535 002: Islam in South Asia: 1000 AD to Present
Fall Semester 2011
Wednesdays 7:20 – 10:00pm, Robinson A 245

CONTACT INFORMATION
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DESCRIPTION:
Muslims in South Asia constitute the largest population of Muslims worldwide. This is an advanced course on the history of Muslim communities and Islamic institutions in South Asia. Its aim is to introduce students to the broad historical currents of the expansion of Islam in the Indian subcontinent, the nature of Muslim political authority, the interaction between religious communities (Hindu, Muslim, etc.,), Islamic aesthetics and contributions to material culture, the multiple engagements and reactions of Muslims to colonial rule, the partition of British India and the creation of Pakistan, and the contemporary concerns of South Asia’s Muslims. This course is also an introduction to the political, cultural, and social history of this diverse group of people. We will begin by examining Muslim encounters with South Asian peoples in the pre-modern and early modern periods. Themes that continue to influence the peoples of South Asia in the present include: the codification of Islamic laws under colonialism, Muslim social reform, revivalist movements, the rise of anti-colonial movements and nationalism, the relevance of regional identities, the partition of the subcontinent, and post-colonial politics in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Texts and readings will draw upon recent secondary research as well as historical and literary primary source materials.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else’s work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

MASON EMAIL ACCOUNTS
Students must use their MasonLIVE email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See http://masonlive.gmu.edu for more information.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. http://ods.gmu.edu
OTHER USEFUL CAMPUS RESOURCES:
WRITING CENTER: A114 Robinson Hall; (703) 993-1200; http://writingcenter.gmu.edu

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES “Ask a Librarian”
http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS): (703) 993-2380;
http://caps.gmu.edu

UNIVERSITY POLICIES
The University Catalog, http://catalog.gmu.edu, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

COURSE WEBSITE AND READINGS
You will find the syllabus as well all of the electronic readings for this course on Blackboard – George Mason University’s electronic learning area. Once you have accessed this course, you will find the readings in the section marked Course Content (these sections will appear on the left side of your screen).

Make sure you print out the readings and bring them to class with you!

BOOKS FOR PURCHASE:
Barbara Metcalf, Islam in South Asia in Practice
Catherine Asher, Cynthia Talbot, India Before Europe
Muzaffar Alam, The Languages of Political Islam, 1200-1800

In addition to the readings made available to you there, you will also read chapters from Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy, Ed. By Ayesha Jalal and Sugata Bose, 2004. This is available as E-Book via George Mason University Library Catalog.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADE BREAKDOWN
You will be expected to complete the reading assigned for each class on or before the day that it is listed on the syllabus. Completing the reading means that you have not only literally read the assignment, but that you have spent some time putting together your thoughts and questions about the readings, the subject, and how all of these relate to the themes of the course. The participation portion of your final grade will take in to account your attendance, preparation for, and active participation in class.

25% Participation (Class Presentations) + Map & ID Quiz
25% 4 Response Papers (3-5 pages)
25% Midterm Essay (7 pages)
25% Final Essay (10-15 pages)
PARTICIPATION: CLASS DISCUSSION
For all classes, one to two students will be assigned to present the readings for that day. Those students will be required to speak for 10 minutes, and to bring at least one question for class discussion. The questions should attempt to address the author’s argument and major themes. While presenting, the student should: 1) bring their notes to class, and summarize the reading; 2) list the major points raised in the reading; 3) select the most important paragraphs from the reading for class discussion and finally 4) explain to the class the author’s argument.

PRIMARY SOURCES: In this course, we will also be examining several primary sources. Students should come prepared to discuss, analyze, and contextualize these primary documents.

MID-TERM ESSAY
Your essays should be double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font. You will be evaluated based on your grasp of the readings in this course. You must use the Chicago-MLA style of citation for either in-text citations or footnotes. The citation guide is posted on BLACKBOARD. Wikipedia will not be accepted as a source citation, and points will be taken off, if it is used as such. Remember to address the question right away. Avoid generalizing sentences and lengthy introductory paragraphs not relevant to the question.

FINAL PAPER
Your final project will be a final paper, and it should be 10-15 pages.

IN-CLASS GUIDELINES: Please…
Switch off all cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices for the duration of the class.

Do not eat, chat, or sleep in class.

Do not saunter in late or leave early without e-mailing me or speaking with me beforehand.

Print out the readings from BLACKBOARD and bring them to class.

ATTENDANCE and EXTENSION POLICY
You will be expected to attend class regularly. If you are absent for three or more class days in a row without a reasonable explanation, you will be dropped from the class. In the event of illness or, family emergency, do let me know via e-mail. If you need an extension, you must let me know at least 24 hours prior to the due-date of the paper, and follow up with an e-mail. Students will not be allowed more than one extension per semester. If an extension is granted and the paper is not handed in, the paper will receive an F. Barring extensions, all assignments must be handed in on the date they are due. Assignments turned in after class will be considered late. The grades for all assignments turned in late will be reduced by a 1/3 of a letter grade (ie. an A to an A-) for every day that they are late.
With the exception of the final exam, I will only accept paper copies (NO electronic submissions) of your work. Please bring a **printed stapled copy of your paper** to class to turn in. The only other time an electronic submission will be allowed is if it is late.

**WEEK 1: Wednesday, August 31, 2011**  
**INTRODUCTIONS: THEMES, TERMS, PERCEPTIONS, NARRATIVES**


Mahmood Mamdani, “Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: A Political Perspective on Culture and Terrorism” in American Anthropologist 104(3):766-775. COPYRIGHT © 2002

Barbara Metcalf, “A Historical Overview of Islam in South Asia: An Introduction” pg. 1-40

**WEEK 2: Wednesday, September 7, 2011**  
**ISLAM AND THE INDIAN OCEAN**


*Engseng Ho, “Custom and Conversion in Malabar: Zayn al-Din al-Malibari’s Gift of the Mujahidin: Some Accounts of the Portuguese” Chapter 30, in *Islam in South Asia*

**************************************************MAP QUIZ**************************************************

**WEEK 3: Wednesday, September 14, 2011**  
‘HINDU’ KINGDOMS IN ISLAMICATE INDIA & ‘MUSLIM’ KINGDOMS IN PRE-MODERN INDIA

Catherine Asher, Cynthia Talbot, *India Before Europe*, p. 1-83

Phillip B. Wagoner, “Harihara, Bukka, and the Sultan: The Delhi Sultanate in the Political Imagination of Vijayanagara,” *Beyond Turk and Hindu: Rethinking Religious Identities in*


******************************************************************************RESPONSE PAPER 1******************************************************************************

WEEK 4: Wednesday, September 21, 2011
REGIONAL SULTANATES and SPREAD OF SUFISM IN MEDIEVAL INDIA
Catherine Asher, Cynthia Talbot, India Before Europe, p. 84-114


*Carl Ernst, “The Daily Life of a Saint, Ahmad Sirhindi, by Badr al-Din Sirhindi” p 158 (in Islam in South Asia in Practice)

WEEK 5: Wednesday, September 28, 2011
THE MUGHALS


******************************************************************************RESPONSE PAPER 2******************************************************************************

WEEK 6: Wednesday, October 5, 2011
UNDERSTANDING JIHAD, HISTORICIZING ISLAMIC REVIVAL, and SHI’A ISLAM


Akbar Hyder, Reliving Karbala: Martyrdom in South Asian Memory. Introduction, Chapter 1-2
WEEK 7: October 12, 2011

COLONIAL CODIFICATION OF ISLAMIC LAWS


Indrani Chatterjee, Gender, Slavery, and Law in Colonial India, New Delhi; New York: Oxford University Press, c1999. Pg. 78-124

Michael Anderson, “Islamic Law and the Colonial Encounter in British India”
http://www.wluml.org/node/5627

*Alan M. Guenther, “A Colonial Court Defines a Muslim”, Chapter 22, Islam in South Asia, pg. 293-305

**********************************************************RESPONSE PAPER 3**********************************************************

WEEK 8: October 19, 2011

THE REVOLT OF 1857: BRITISH PERCEPTIONS, INDO-MUSLIM RESPONSES


*W.W. Hunter, The Indian Musalmans (selections)

*Syed Ahmed Khan, “The Causes of the Indian Revolt”
http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00urdu/asbab/translation1873.html?

WEEK 9: Wednesday, October 26, 2011

MODERN REFORM and REVIVAL:


*Fareeha Khan, Maulana Thanawi’s Fatwa on the Limits of Parental Rights over Children
Chapter 23 Islam in South Asia in Practice, pg. 305

*Nazeer Ahmed, Letter to His Son, (Translated from the Original Urdu by Ralph Russell,
Annual of Urdu Studies)

******************************************************************************MIDTERM ESSAY******************************************************************************

WEEK 10: Wednesday, November 2, 2011

COLONIAL SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNALISM
North India (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1992), 67-108.

*Mrs. Meer Hassan Ali, Observations on the Mussulmauns of India, Descriptive of their
Manners, Customs, Habits, and Religious Opinions, made during a Twelve Years’ Residence in
their Immediate Society (1832). Edited by W. Crooke (1917)
http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00islamlinks/mrsmeerhassanali/index.html
Editor’s Note
Preface to the Second Edition
Bibliography
Author’s Introduction
Letters 1-2, 4, 6, and 16

WEEK 11: Wednesday, November 9, 2011

MUSLIM REFORMISM & GENDER
Barbara Metcalf, “An Introduction to the Bihishti Zewar,” in Perfecting Women: Maulana

Faisal Devji, “Gender and the Politics of Space: The Movement for Women’s Reform, 1857-
1900” in Zoya Hasan, Forging Identities (New Delhi: Kali for Women, 1994)

Barbara Metcalf, “Islam and Power in Colonial India: The Making and Unmaking of a Muslim

*Marcia Hermansen, “Two Sufis on Molding the New Muslim Woman: Khwaja Hasan Nizami
(1878-1955) and Hazrat Inayat Khan (1882-1927)” Chapter 25, Islam in South Asia in Practice
326

*Sylvia Vatuk, “A Rallying Cry for Muslim Personal Law: The Shah Bano Case and Its
Aftermath” Chapter 27, Islam in South Asia in Practice 352

******************************************************************************RESPONSE PAPER 4******************************************************************************

WEEK 12: Wednesday, November 16, 2010
ISLAMIC UNIVERSALISM AND ANTI-COLONIAL INDIAN NATIONALISM


DOCUMENTARY: Message from the East: Allama Muhammad Iqbal

WEEK 13: Wednesday, November 30, 2011
INDEPENDENCE AND PARTITION: THE BIRTH OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN
Peter Hardy, The Muslims of British India (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1972), 198-246.


*Sa’adat Hasan Manto, “Toba Tek Singh”


Asad Ahmed, “Specters of Macaulay: Blasphemy, the Indian Penal Code, and Pakistan’s Post-Colonial Predicament”

WEEK 14: Wednesday, December 7, 2011

ISLAM AND POLITICS IN THE INDO-AFGHAN BORDERLAND
Sana Haroon, Frontier of Faith: Islam in the Indo-Afghan Borderland, Introduction, Chapter 1, 3-4, Epilogue


Ahmed Rashid, “Afghanistan: High Point in the Cold War”


FINAL PAPER DUE DECEMBER 13