

HIST 387 (005)
HIST 387 (DL8)

South Asia and the British Empire

Professor: Dr. Aminur Rahman (arahma7@gmu.edu)

Office hours: By appointment only

Cell: 571 594 4559 (emergencies only)

Class meets: Online

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course examines the British imperial presence in South Asia (i.e., India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal) as cultural, economic and political forms of domination, which changed South Asia once and for all. While examining the British imperial manifestation on South Asia, this course also examines the nature of relationship between colonizers and colonized, center and periphery, *they* and *we*. This course uses readings, lectures and films to contextualize past forms of European imperialism, as well as present forms of global domination.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Bose, Sugata and Jalal, Ayesha: *Modern South Asia: History, Culture and Political Economy*, Routledge: NY, 2018

2. Metcalf, Barbara and Metcalf, Thomas: *A Concise History of Modern India*
<http://apnaorg.com/books/english/concise-history-india/concise-history-india.pdf>

I will provide electronic copy of the books but if you prefer a hard copy you can purchase them.

Other required readings will be available on Blackboard.

NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY IS ASSUMED OR REQUIRED.

COURSE REQUIREMENT AND GRADING

This course is structured to reward students who come to class, complete the assigned reading, participate in discussions, and stay on top of their assignments. All students are expected to actively participate in each week's discussion. To do this effectively you will need to read and think about the assigned reading before you come to class. In class, be prepared to ask questions and think critically about the reading materials. Students will be evaluated based upon both the quantity and the quality of your contributions to our weekly discussions. If you are uncomfortable speaking in front of the group, please talk to your instructor after class and explain your situation. Below is the grading procedure.

COURSE REQUIREMENT AND GRADING

This course is structured to reward students who complete the assigned reading, participate in discussions, and stay on top of their assignments. All students are expected to actively participate in each week's discussion. To do this effectively you will need to read and think about the assigned reading before you come to class. In class, be prepared to ask questions and think critically about the material. Students will be evaluated based upon both the quantity and the quality of your contributions to our weekly discussions. If you are uncomfortable speaking in front of the group, please talk to your instructor after class and explain your situation. Below is the grading procedure.

A+ = 98-100; A = 93-97; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 82-86; B- = 80-81; C+ = 77-79; C = 72-76; C- = 70-71; D+ = 67-69; D = 62-66; D- = 60-61; F = below 60

Final semester grades are based on weekly participation in Discussion Board (20% all together), two 2-3-page response papers (a mid-term and a final, 25% each), and a 6-8-page short research paper (30%). See "Discussion Board," "Response Papers" and "Research Paper" below.

- **DISCUSSION BOARD**

You will be assessed on your participation in the class discussion. You should submit one thoughtful comment or question on Discussion Board each week in order to receive full participation credit. Your answer should be at least 3 or 4 substantial sentences and demonstrate your engagement with the class material. Questions and suggestions for discussion will be available on Blackboard each week. Each week is worth up to 3 points (only one post counts per week, but feel free to submit multiple posts in a discussion). The discussion board grade is not just an average of the number of points in each week's discussion board. The discussion board posts are all together worth 20% of the final semester grade. This is calculated by the Blackboard computer.

- **RESPONSE PAPERS**

There are no formal exams for this course. Instead, two times during the semester you will be asked to write a 2-3-page (typed) response paper related to the material we studied in class. You will be given several questions to answer within the

response paper. Response papers are worth up to 100 points each. They each count 25% of the semester grade.

- **RESEARCH PAPER**

You will also be asked to write a 6-8-page research paper on a topic related to this class. A list of topics will be provided but you must have your choice of topic approved by the professor. You can use any scholarly system of footnoting as long as it is consistent throughout the paper. The intent of the paper is to reference and expand on the material studied in the class, and to explore further a topic of particular interest to you. You may also choose to include a summary paragraph that relates the historical material to current events today. The research paper is worth 100 points, like an exam, and counts as 30% of the final semester grade. More information will be available on Blackboard.

- **Understanding your “Grade so far” on Blackboard:**

After a few weeks, in the Grade Center on Blackboard, you will see a column labeled “Grade so far.” This shows your current course grade based on the work you have completed and I have graded so far. This lets you know how you have performed in this course so far. It does NOT say “this will be your final grade if you stop working now.” So use “Grade so far” to know how you have performed so far and to inspire you to keep your work at a high quality for the rest of the semester!

GENERAL WRITING INSTRUCTION

With regard to organization, the paper should be written in a proper essay format with a thesis statement that is supported throughout the rest of the paper. The first paragraph is an introduction and make sure that you present your main argument here in a clear manner. The subsequent paragraphs (the body) should provide your argument. The body of your paper should support the ideas proposed in the introduction. The last paragraph is your conclusion that does not introduce any new material, but summarizes your paper. This section should serve to wrap up your paper. The introduction and conclusion should speak to each other.

You are required to cite references in writing your papers. Use of these references should follow the techniques outlined below. Footnotes and citations are required. If you get a fact from a textbook, book, or a journal article, you must list the author, date, and page in the footnote. You will cite your references to give credit to persons whose ideas or facts you use. All quotes must have a citation; otherwise it is plagiarism (see section on plagiarism below). Remember, always cite the primary reference—If you take a specific point from one of the course textbooks, and that point is cited as being derived from a work by another author, look in the bibliography of the textbook for that original citation.

For citation, YOU CAN HAVE A LOOK INTO American Historical Association Style. You can have a detailed style guide here:

<http://deerfield.history.museum/dtc/programs/American%20Historical%20Re>

[view%20Citation%20Style.pdf](#)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students must be responsible for their own work. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code. Any student found cheating, including plagiarism, will receive a grade of “0” for the assignment or exam and may also be referred to the Dean of Student Services for additional disciplinary action. If you are unsure what plagiarism is, you should read through this website:

<http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>

MasonLive/EMAIL (GMU Email)

Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

Once you sign up for your Patriot Pass, your passwords will be synchronized, and you will use your Patriot Pass username and password to log in to the following systems: Blackboard, University Libraries, MasonLive, myMason, Patriot Web.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students must follow the university policies. [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>].

RESPONSIBLE USE OF COMPUTING

Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu>].

WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS

If you choose to withdraw from this class, it is your responsibility to check the appropriate deadlines and proceed with the withdrawal process.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The schedule below indicates themes, lecture topics, readings, & deadlines.

Week 1: August 24, 2020

Introduction & Orientation
Course Intro
Introduction to Modern South Asia

REQUIRED READING

1. Bose and Jalal, Chapter 1: South Asian History: An introduction; Chapter 2: Modernity and Antiquity: Interpretation of ancient India
2. Metcalf and Metcalf, Chronology, pp. xxvi-xxxiii

Week 2: August 31, 2020

Making of the British Empire

REQUIRED READING

1. Kumar, Krishna, Visions of Empire: How Five Imperial Regimes Shaped the World, Chapter: One, The Idea of Empire
2. Kumar, Krishna: Visions of Empire, Chapter 6, The British Empire

Movie: A passage to India

Assignment on Blackboard

Week 3: September 7, 2020

The East India Company Raj

REQUIRED READING

1. Bose and Jalal, Chapter 6, Chapter 7 and Chapter 8
2. Tharu, Shashi, Inglorious Empire: What the British Did to India, Chapter 2 and 5

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=US2Vwj4RDjw>

This is an audio book. Browse and find those two chapters.

Movie: The Warrior Queen of Jhansi (Available on Amazon Prime)

Assignment on Blackboard

Week 4: September 14, 2020

The Debate on Sati

REQUIRED READING

1. A Just Measure of Death? Hindu Ritual and Colonial Law in the Sphere of Widow Immolations, Tanika Sarkar Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East Vol. 33, No. 2, 2013

2. Mani, Lata, "Contentious Traditions: The Debate on Sati in Colonial India,"

3. William Bentinck, "On Ritual Murder in India"

Available: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1829bentinck.asp>

Readings will be provided

Movie: Water

Available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcCXshTP9FE>

Assignment on Blackboard

Week 5: September 21, 2020

1857: Rebellion and Transition to Crown Raj

REQUIRED READING

1. Metcalf & Metcalf, Chapter 4. Revolt, the modern state, and colonized subjects, 1848 - 1885

2. Masculinity Forged Under Siege: The Indian Mutiny of 1857, Ralph Crane and Radhika Mohanram from Imperialism as Diaspora: Race, Sexuality, and History in Anglo-India, Liverpool University Press. (2013)

Movie: Mangal Pandey (available on YouTube and Amazon Prime)

Assignment on Blackboard

Week 6: September 28, 2020

A Nation in the Making

REQUIRED READING

1. Bose and Jalal: Chapter 11

Movie: Viceroy's House (available on Amazon Prime)

Assignment on Blackboard

Week 7: October 5, 2020

Fall Break: No class, enjoy your break.

RESPONSE PAPER #1 IS DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 P.M. ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020

Week 8: October 13, 2020

Gandhi: And Indian Nationalism

REQUIRED READING

1. Bose and Jalal, Chapter 13, 14
2. Lal, Vinay , Gandhi's West, the West's Gandhi: New Literary History, Vol. 40, No. 2, India and the West (SPRING 2009), pp. 281- 313
3. Metcalf and Metcalf, Chapter 6

Movie: Gandhi

BBC Documentary: The Making of the Mahatma

Assignment on Blackboard

Week 9: October 19, 2020

Discussion Section: Empire, Women, and Nationalism

REQUIRED READING

1. Antoinette Burton, "The White Woman's Burden: British Feminists and "The Indian Woman," 1865-1915"
2. Tharu and Lalita, eds., Women Writing in India, "Tarabai Shinde"

Film: Rang De Basanti (Available on Netflix)

Assignment on Blackboard

Week 10: October 26, 2020

Cast and Sati

REQUIRED READING

1. Dirk, Nicholas, The Cast of Mind, Introduction
2. Bayly, Susan, Caste, Society and Politics in India, Chapter 3 and 5

Movie: Before the Rain (available on Amazon in Hindi)

RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC PROPOSAL is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, November 1.

Assignment on Blackboard

Week 11. November 2, 2020

World War II and Imperial India

REQUIRED READING

1. Bose and Jalal, Chapter 15
2. Metcalf and Metcalf, Chapter 7
3. Madhusree, Mukerjee, *Churchill's secret war*, Introduction
4. Mukerjee, Madhusree, Winston Churchill's Plan for Post-war India, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 45, No. 32 (AUGUST 7-13, 2010), pp. 27-30

You tube video:

1. The Bengal Famine and Winston Churchill
2. The Bengal Famine of 1943

Assignment on Blackboard

Week 12. November 9, 2020

Partition of India

REQUIRED READING

1. Bose and Jalal: Chapter 16
2. Metcalf and Metcalf: *A Concise History of Modern India*, CUP: 2006, The 1940s: triumph and tragedy [chapter 7] pp. 203-230.
3. Dalrymple, William: The Great Divide: The violent legacy of Indian Partition, *The New Yorker*, June 29 2015 issue.

[Available online]

Movie: Earth

You Tube Video: The Last Days Of The British Raj (Partition of India)

Week 13: November 16, 2020

Post colonial South Asia

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal

REQUIRED READING

1. Bose and Jalal, Chapter 18 and 19
2. Ludden, David, chapter 7

Week 14: November 23, 2020

Problems and Possibilities of South Asia
Communalism, Hindutya, Kashmir, Rohinga issues

Reading will be provided

RESEARCH PAPER IS DUE on Blackboard no later than 11:59 p.m. on Mon. Nov. 30

Week 15: November 30, 2020 Review and discussion about final exam

RESPONSE PAPER #2 is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13

FURTHER READING

Vivers, Peter von. *Patterns of World History*, OUP: Vol. 1 and Vol. 2. 2012.

Daniels and Hyslop: *Almanac of World History*, Third Edition.

Prakash, Gyan 'Subaltern Studies as Postcolonial Criticism', *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 99, No. 5 (Dec., 1994), pp. 1475-1490 Published by: Oxford University Press on behalf of the American Historical Association
Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2168385>

Hannah Beech, 'The Face of Buddhist Terror', July 01, 2013 TIME magazine

Said, Edward: *Orientalism*, Vintage Book: 1978.

Huntington, Samuel P., *The Clash of Civilization and the Remaking of World Order*, TouchStone: 1997.

Chakrabarty, Dipesh, *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*: Princeton University Press, 2007.

###