

University of Illinois at Chicago
HIST/GLAS 275: HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA TO 1857

Fall 2017

Class Times: Tues./Thurs. 11-12:15pm
Burnham Hall 209

Prof. Rama Mantena

Of: 929 UH

Of hrs: 12:30-1:30pm on Tuesdays and by appointment

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TA: Hashim Ali

Of: UH 1002

Of hrs: 2-4pm Thursdays

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Where did the philosophy of “nonviolence” originate from? Who was the founder of Buddhism? Were there any empires in India before the British? You will find answers to these questions and more in this course on the history of South Asia before 1857. This course will introduce you to the diverse civilizations and overlapping histories of the modern nation states of South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.) We will explore the cultural, social, and political developments in the region from the Indus Valley period to the rise of the British Empire.

Coursework: The course will be made up of lectures and discussion sessions. The reading assignments are listed weekly. You are required to read the assignments before attending class so you can follow lectures, ask questions and generally be prepared for discussion. We will try to leave some time for discussion each day but on those days when we have a significant reading assignment, we'll set aside much of class time for discussion of the reading. In terms of written work, there will be 2 exams (they are listed on your schedule) and 3 unannounced quizzes (which means they are not listed on your schedule), 2 of which will count towards your final grade.

10% Attendance (and participation)

20% 2 Quizzes (10% each)

30% In-class Midterm Exam (Identifications, Short answers, Essay)

40% Final Take-home Exam (Essay exam)

Extra Credit: Write a 2 page report on an art object at the Art institute of Chicago that was produced during the period of our study of South Asian history. Please include a

picture of the object when you turn it in (up to 10 points added to your final exam grade category).

Blackboard: You are required to consult Blackboard on a weekly basis for announcements for the course, updates on the course syllabus, required reading material for the course (under Course Material).

Course Obligations: Attendance is mandatory. Please arrive on time to class; tardiness will not be tolerated. If you miss more than 3 classes, you may be asked to drop the course. If you know you will be absent on any given day (this includes the first 2 weeks of the semester), you must inform me beforehand. In order for an absence to count as an excused one, you must provide a legitimate verifiable excuse.

Laptops, phones and iPads: All devices are to be put away during class time. This means no texting, checking Facebook or other social media in class. If you must have a laptop for note taking, please come see me during the first week of class to ask for permission.

Disability Services: Concerning disabled students, the University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that individuals with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at UIC. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for full access and participation in UIC Programs must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Please contact DRC at (312) 413-2183 (voice) or (312) 413- 0123 (TDD).

Required Books (available at UIC Bookstore):

Thomas Trautmann, *India*.

R.K. Narayan, *The Ramayana*.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

ANCIENT INDIA

Week 1: Introduction to South Asia; Maps; Physical environments.

Tu (8/29): Introduction; Maps

Th (8/31): Indus Valley: Harappa and Mohenjo-daro

Read: Trautmann, 1-31, A.L. Basham, *The Origins and Development of Classical Hinduism*, 1-6 (on Blackboard).

Week 2: The Rise of the Indo-Aryans: Adivasis, Aryas, Vedic Hinduism

Tu (9/5): Read: Trautmann, 32-47.

Th (9/7): Read: A.L. Basham, *The Origins and Development of Classical Hinduism*, 6-35 (on Blackboard).

Week 3: Urbanization and Religious Traditions in Early India: Ajivikas, Jainism, Buddhism

Tu (9/12): Read: Peter Heehs, *Indian Religions: The Spiritual Traditions of South Asia*, 89-130 (on Blackboard).

Th (9/14): Read: Dalrymple, "The Nun's Tale," 3-28 (on Blackboard).

Week 4: Beginnings of Empire in South Asia: The Mauryas and Asoka.

Tu (9/19): Read: Trautmann, 48-61.

Th (9/21): Read Asokan edicts: 14 Rock edicts and the Kalinga edicts.

<https://www.cs.colostate.edu/~malaiya/ashoka.html#FOURTEEN>

Listen to: BBC British Museum History of the World in 100 Objects, the pillars of Ashoka, <http://bbc.in/KLGSkF>

CLASSICAL INDIA

Week 5: The Guptas: Kingship and Culture.

Tu (9/26): Read: Trautmann, 62-84.

Th (9/28): Read Trautmann, 85-101.

Week 6: Classical Culture: Religion, Law and Literature.

Tu (10/3): Read Trautmann, 102-127.

Th (10/5): History and Epic.

Read R.K. Narayan's *The Ramayana*. Pp. 1-95.

Week 7: History and Epic.

Tu (10/10): Read R.K. Narayan's *The Ramayana*. Pp. 97-171. Film: *Sita Sings the Blues*.

Th (10/12): Discussion on R.K. Narayan's *The Ramayana*. Pp. 97-171. Film: *Sita Sings the Blues*.

Week 8: Midterm Review and Exam

Tu (10/17): Review Session for Midterm Exam.

Th (10/19): Midterm Exam

Week 9: The Southern Kingdoms: Cholas, Pallavas, Pandyas

Th (10/24): Read: AK Ramanujan, "Classics Lost and Found" (Blackboard)

Th (10/26): Discussion on AK Ramanujan, "Classics Lost and Found" (Blackboard)

EARLY MODERN INDIA

Week 10: The Sultanates: Arab Conquest of Sindh, Mahmud of Ghazni, the Sultanates

Tu (10/31): Read: Trautmann, 142-153 and Richard Eaton, *Islamic History as Global History*, pp. 31-46. (Blackboard)

Th (11/2): Read: Ross E. Dunn, "Delhi," *The Adventures of Ibn Battuta*, 183-212. (Blackboard)

Week 11: Vijayanagara: The City and Empire

Tu (11/7): Read: Burton Stein on Vijayanagara (Blackboard)

Th (11/9) Read: Phil Wagoner, "Sultan among the Hindu Kings" (Blackboard)

The Mughal Empire: Babur to Aurangzeb

Week 12

Tu (11/14): Read: Trautmann, 154-162

Film: Documentary on the Mughals.

Th (11/16) Read: Selections from *Baburnama* (Blackboard).

Week 13: The Mughal Empire: Babur to Aurangzeb

Tu (11/21): Read: Catherine B. Asher and Cynthia Talbot, "The career of Akbar," *India before Europe*. Cambridge, 2006, pp. 123-151 (Blackboard).

Th (11/23): No Class (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Week 14

The Coming of the Europeans: The Portuguese, the English and the French.

Tu (11/28): Read: Trautmann, 163-182 and Richard Eaton, "Multiple Lenses: Differing Perspectives of Fifteenth-Century Calicut," *Autonomous Histories, Particular Truths* (Blackboard).

MODERN INDIA

Challenges to the British Empire: Tipu Sultan

Th (11/30): Read: Comic book history of Tipu Sultan (Blackboard)

Week 15: Early British Rule

Tu (12/5): Read: Selections from Dalrymple, *White Mughals*

Th (12/7): Review for Final exam.

Final Take-home exam due during finals week, Wednesday 12/13 by midnight.