



HIST/GLAS 276: MODERN SOUTH ASIA, 1857 TO THE PRESENT

University of Illinois at Chicago

Department of History

Spring 2020

TTh 12:30-1:45pm

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South Asia refers to the region inclusive of modern-day Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. It might seem arbitrary at first glance, however, these

countries have overlapping histories, religions and cultures that connect them together. In order to understand the political and cultural histories of the region, it is important to trace the region's thrust into the global order in the last 150 years with British colonial rule and the nationalist resistance to it. This course will begin with the 1857 revolt against British imperial power on the Indian subcontinent and end with reflections on the politics and culture in the region, with a focus on the contemporary states of India and Pakistan and to a lesser degree Afghanistan and Bangladesh. We will use a wide variety of sources from contemporary documentaries, fiction, and journalistic accounts of South Asian politics and society.

Course Requirements: Attendance is mandatory. The participation grade will be based on your engagement in class discussions..

10% Attendance (and Participation)
 20% In-class writing assignments
 40% 2 in-class Midterm Exams (20% each)
 30% Take-home Final Exam

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious offense at UIC. Please avoid taking ideas and words from others and presenting them as your own. If you do use ideas and words from the work of others and you decide to incorporate those ideas or words into your written work, you must properly attribute credit to the original author by citing them in footnotes and bibliography. Please see UIC's policies for academic integrity:

<https://dos.uic.edu/community-standards/academic-integrity/student-academic-resources/>

Required Books (UIC Bookstore):

1. Ramachandra Guha, *Makers of Modern India*. (A PDF is available on BB).
2. Subash V., *Bhimayana*.
3. Basharat Peer, *Curfewed Night: One Kashmiri Journalist's Frontline Account of Life, Love, and War in His Homeland*.

Recommended Book:

Thomas Metcalf and Barbara Metcalf, *A Concise History of Modern India*. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Blackboard: All students must use the course website on Blackboard. Weekly readings will be posted under Course Materials. Also you should—as a routine—check Blackboard for announcements that I make concerning the entire class.

Weekly Schedule

1/14-1/16

Week 1: The British Empire and South Asia

T: Introductions and the British Empire in India: an overview

Maps and Geography

Browse historical maps: <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/reference/schwartzberg/>

TH: Read for discussion: PJ Marshall, “An Expanding Empire” from *Cambridge Illustrated History of the British Empire* and Guha, *Makers of Modern India*, “Prologue,” BB)

1/21-1/23

Week 2: Imperial Conquest and early colonial rule

T: Film: Begin viewing Satyajit Ray’s *Chesplayers* (1977)

TH: Film: Finish viewing Satyajit Ray’s *Chesplayers* (1977)

Discussion on film

1/28-1/30

Week 3: The 1857 Revolt

T: Discuss Rudrangshu Mukherjee, *Specters of Violence*, pp. 45-77 (BB)

Religion, Colonial Rule and the Liberal Transformation of India

TH: Read for discussion: Guha, *Makers of Modern India*, Chapters 1 (Rammohan Roy), 2 (Syed Ahmad Khan) and 3 (Jotirao Phule).

2/4-2/6

Week 4: Religion, Colonial Rule and the Liberal Transformation of India

T: Read for discussion: B Metcalf, “The Madrasa at Deoband,” in *Islamic Contestations: Essays on Muslims in India and Pakistan* (OUP, 2004). (BB)

Map: <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/reference/schwartzberg/fullscreen.html?object=106>

Indian Nationalism

TH: Read for discussion: Guha, *Makers of Modern India*, Chapters 4 (Gokhale), 5 (Tilak), 7 (Gandhi) and 8 (Tagore) and selections from Dadabhai Naoroji’s *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India* <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1871britishrule.asp>

Maps:

<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/reference/schwartzberg/fullscreen.html?object=108>

<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/reference/schwartzberg/fullscreen.html?object=109>

2/11-2/13

Week 5: Indian Nationalism

T: Read for discussion: Guha, *Makers of Modern India*, Chapters 10 (Jinnah), 11 (E. V. Ramaswami) and 13 (Gandhi).

TH: Read: Gandhi’s *Hind Swaraj (Indian Home Rule)*. (BB)

2/18-2/20

Week 6: Indian Nationalism

Discussion on Gandhi’s *Hind Swaraj (Indian Home Rule)*. (BB)

TH: Review for exam.

2/25-2/27

Week 7: In-class exam #1

T: First in-class Exam.

TH: **Women in Colonial India**

T: Read for discussion: Tarabai Shinde, *Between Men and Women*. (BB)

Read for discussion: Guha, *Makers of Modern India*, Chapter 12 (Kamladevi Chattopadhyay).

3/3-3/5

Week 8: Politics of Caste in India

T: Read for discussion: Guha, *Makers of Modern India*, Chapters 9 (Ambedkar) and 14 (Ambedkar).

TH: Film: "The Caste Struggle" (2008)

Read for discussion: *Bhimayana*.

3/10-3/12

Week 9: The Politics of Caste in India

T: Read for discussion: *Bhimayana*.

TH: **Partitioning British India**

Map:

<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/reference/schwartzberg/fullscreen.html?object=113>

Read for discussion: Yasmine Khan, *The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan*. (BB)

3/17-3/19

Week 10: In-class exam #2

T: Review for 2nd Exam

TH: In-class Exam

SPRING BREAK: March 23-27, 2020

3/31-4/2

Week 11: Partitioning British India

T: Read for discussion: Saadat Hasan Manto's "[Toba Tek Singh](#)" and selections from Urvashi Butalia's *The Other Side of Silence*. (BB)

TH: **The Making of India**

Read for discussion: Jawaharlal Nehru, speech at the granting of Indian Independence, August 14, 1947. <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1947nehru1.html>

and Sunil Khilnani, “Democracy,” in *The Idea of India*. (BB) and Guha, *Makers of Modern India*, Chapter 15 (J Nehru).

4/7-4/9

Week 12: The Making of India

T: Read for discussion: Guha, *Makers of Modern India*, Chapters 16 (Golwalkar), 17 (Lohia) and 18 (Jayaprakash Narayan).

TH: **The Making of Pakistan** (Lecture by Hashim Ali)

Read for discussion: B Metcalf, “The Case of Pakistan” in *Islamic Contestations: Essays on Muslims in India and Pakistan* (OUP, 2004) (BB)

4/14-4/16

Week 13: The Making of Pakistan (Lecture by Hashim Ali)

T: Read for discussion: A.G. Noorani, ed., “Adjustment to a New Order” in *The Muslims of India*, pp. 34-60. (BB)

Muhammad Iqbal, “1930 Presidential Address to the 25th Session of the All-India Muslim League, Allahabad, 29 December 1930”

(http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealc/pritchett/00islamlinks/txt_iqbal_1930.html)

TH: **Challenges to Democracy in India and Pakistan** (Lecture by Hashim Ali)

Read for discussion: Ramachandra Guha, “Autumn of the Matriarch,” *India after Gandhi* and Chapter 4 from Saadia Toor’s *The State of Islam: Culture and Cold War Politics in Pakistan*.

4/21-4/23

Week 14: Kashmir

T: Read for discussion: Basharat Peer, *Curfewed Night*. Pp 1-95.

TH: Film: TBA

Finish reading Peer’s *Curfewed Night*. Pp. 95-217.

4/28-4/30

Week 15: Challenges to Citizenship

T: Read the following articles:

1. Pratap Bhanu Mehta, “[Discrimination, not justice](#),” *The Indian Express*, 19 Dec 2019
2. Isaac Chotiner, “[INDIA’S CITIZENSHIP EMERGENCY](#),” *New Yorker*, 18 Dec 2019
3. Shruti Jain, “[Explained: The Nuts and Bolts of Indian Citizenship](#),” *The Wire*, 19 Dec 2019
4. Sandipto Dasgupta, “[The Fight for India's Democracy](#), From the University to the Streets,” *The Wire*, 12 Jan 2020.

TH: Review

Final Take-home Exam due May 7, 2020 (must be submitted to Blackboard by 11:59pm)