

HIST 243: South Asian History and Civilizations Fall 2012

CLASS SCHEDULE AND LOCATION

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM, UNIV 217

INSTRUCTOR Dr. Tithi Bhattacharya
Office University Hall 309
Office Hours Tuesday and Thursday: 11 am to 12 noon and by
appointment
E-mail tbhattac@purdue.edu

REQUIRED TEXT

Crispin Bates, *Subalterns and the Raj: South Asia since 1600*

The book is available at:

University Book Store

Main Store Phone # 765.743.9618

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

1. You are expected to finish the weekly readings prior to the lecture.
2. Your grades will be based on two mid-term exams, a final paper of 7-8 pages and one reaction paper of 5-6 pages.
3. The format of the two midterm exams will be explained in more detail before you have to take them.

First Mid-term Exam	25%
Second Mid-term Exam	25%
Reaction Paper	15%
Final Paper	30%
Attendance	5%

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)

Details for Reaction Paper and Final Paper

Reaction Paper

1. Form of the Paper: Paper must be typed. Font: Times New Roman. Font size: 12 point. Length: 5-6 pages

2. Topic of the Paper: Warren Hastings famously said, "The writers of the Indian philosophies will survive, when the British dominion in India shall long have ceased to exist, and when the sources which it yielded of wealth and power are lost to remembrances."

He also said, ""Every application of knowledge and especially such as is obtained in social communication with people, over whom we exercise dominion, founded on the right of conquest, is useful to the state ... It attracts and conciliates distant affections, it lessens the weight of the chain by which the natives are held in subjection and it imprints on the hearts of our countrymen the sense of obligation and benevolence... Every instance which brings their real character will impress us with more generous sense of feeling for their natural rights, and teach us to estimate them by the measure of our own... But such instances can only be gained in their writings; and these will survive when British domination in India shall have long ceased to exist, and when the sources which once yielded of wealth and power are lost to remembrance"

Explore the contradictions of Orientalism as a body of knowledge from the above two quotes.

Final Paper

1. Form of the Paper: Paper must be typed. Font: Times New Roman. Font size: 12 point. Length: 7-8 pages

2. Topic of Final Paper: For your final paper you have to critically evaluate an important essay by one of the leading figures in the field of South Asian history: Ranajit Guha's "Dominance without Hegemony". You will be provided with a handout on how to write this review. But I strongly suggest that you start reading the essay as soon as possible and begin preparing a list of questions and a catalogue of unfamiliar terms and concepts.

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

Week 1: August 21-23: Introduction and Film: Passage to India

Week 2: August 28-30 : Mughal Rule to Colonialism
Weekly Readings: Bates, Chapter 2

Week 3-4: Sept.4-13: Whose Civilization?
Weekly Readings:

1. Bates, Chapter 3
2. Ronald Inden, "Orientalist Construction of India"
Available on JSTOR at: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/312531>
3. Excerpts from Andrea Major, Sati: A Historical Anthology
Available on Blackboard

Week 5: September 18-20: Discussion of Primary Source Documents
Reaction Paper due in class Thursday, September 20

Week 6: September 25- 27: Rise up!
Weekly Readings:

1. Bates, Chapter 4
2. Karl Marx, "Investigation of Tortures in India" Available at:
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1857/09/17.htm>

Week 7: Oct. 2-4: **First Midterm Exam: Tuesday, October 2**
NO CLASS ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

