

From the Mughals to Mahatma Gandhi: An Introduction to Modern Indian History

Dr. Amna Khalid
Office: Leighton 206
Phone: x4213
E-mail: amkhalid@carleton.edu

Office Hours: Wed 2:00-3:00
Thurs 3:30-5:00
Sign-up online

Venue: Leighton Hall 426

Class times: M&W: 12.30-1.40
F: 1.10-2.10

Course Description and Objectives

This is an introductory survey course; no prior knowledge of South Asian History required. The goal is to familiarize students with some of the key themes and debates in the historiography of modern India. Beginning with an overview of Mughal rule in India, the main focus of the course is the colonial period. The course ends with a discussion of 1947: the hour independence as well as the creation of two new nation-states, India and Pakistan. Using historiographical debates as the main lens the course explores the following topics: oriental despotism, colonial rule, social reform, nationalism, communalism, gender, caste and race.

Please note that this course combines lecturing and discussion as the main learning strategies. Therefore, students are required to *lead* discussions on specific topics. The class will be divided into 6 groups and depending on you group number (G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, or G6) you will be responsible presenting the material assigned and leading class discussion on that particular day. Each group will be assigned one session where you will base your discussion on the primary sources assigned for that day. While the entire class is required to do these readings, the assigned group will be responsible for doing background research, presenting the readings to the others in light of their research, and posing discussion questions for the class. Each member of the group is also required to hand in a *thesis-driven* written analysis of the primary sources using the following guidelines:

Primary sources: What is the purpose of the sources? How might we use them as historical documents? What do these sources tell us and about whom? What was the context in which they were written? You do not have to answer all these questions – they are only prompts to help you think about the sources. Also you **must** consult the history department webpage on how to analyze a primary source: apps.carleton.edu/curricular/history/study/primary/

Towards the end of the course each group will present the historiographical tradition assigned to it. Each group will be assigned separate sets of readings for this. Instructions for the presentation will be on the assignment sheet (which I will hand out closer to the time).

In terms of method this course aims to equip you with some of the basic skills necessary for historical analysis and academic writing. You should come out of this course being able to read a text critically in order to identify the biases of the author while at the same time being reflective about your own position; understand the ways in which evidence can be used to substantiate an argument; construct your own argument and communicate it effectively, *both in writing and orally*. Therefore, along with written assignments you are expected to make oral presentations.

Required Reading

Textbook: Barbara D. Metcalf and Thomas R. Metcalf, *A Concise History of Modern India, 3rd Edition*, 3rd edition (Cambridge England: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Every week you will be required to do the stipulated reading from the textbook in addition to the readings posted on Moodle for each class session. While you may read the textbook chapter over the course of the week for which it is assigned, the other readings must be done before class. Please make sure that you have completed your textbook reading for the week *before* class on Friday.

Note: All readings posted on Moodle are only intended for the use of this class. Please do not share them with people outside the Carleton Community so as not to breach copyright laws.

Due dates and academic honesty

Submission dates for primary source analyses vary for each group:

Group 1: Monday April 15

Group 2: Monday April 22

Group 3: Monday April 29

Group 4: Monday May 13

Group 5: Monday May 20

Group 6: Monday May 27

You must submit your primary source analyses via the submission portal in Moodle by 11.55 pm on the Monday following your group presentation.

Requests for extensions need to be made the day before the paper is due and will usually only be granted because of medical or other unforeseen problems. *Late submissions will result in a grade deduction*. It is imperative that all students follow the Carleton College policy of Academic Honesty which includes footnoting the sources of all ideas, quotations, and paraphrases.

For citation format please refer to: <http://apps.carleton.edu/curricular/history/study/citations/>

Class participation

Please note that you are expected to have done the assigned readings *before* the class. You should be able to identify the main argument in the reading, comment on the ways in which the argument has been constructed and be able to come up with questions you would like to ask the author. So try and think along the following lines when assessing a reading: What is the main point of the reading? Can you summarize the argument in one sentence? Can you contextualize the argument? How is the argument substantiated? Is the evidence reliable?

A substantial part of your grade is based on class participation which means actively taking part in class discussions, posing questions and responding to those posed by others. You will be required to carry out peer evaluations and will be given guidelines for how to do this.

Please ensure that by the end of week 4 you have all come individually to see me in my office hours. *This is important!* So please make sure you sign up for a meeting slot on my office hours sign-up sheet on Moodle.

Attendance Policy

Any more than two unexcused absences will result in a third of a letter grade reduction, e.g. an B will become an B-.

Carleton College Disability Policy

Carleton College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students requesting accommodation must place documentation on file with the Coordinator of Disability Services who will then inform faculty about student accommodations. College policy is that faculty can and should wait for this notification before making course modifications for students. Disability Services contact information:

Andy Christensen, Coordinator of Disability Services – email: anchrist@carleton.edu; phone: x4080.

Grading structure

Primary source analysis (written) due on group specific dates:	10%
Group presentations of primary sources:	10%
Class participation:	15%
Group presentations at the end of course:	15%
Midterm exam:	20%
Final exam:	30%

CLASS SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1 (April 1-5): Introduction & the Mughals

Textbook pp. 14-28 & Chapter 2

Mon: Introduction

Wed: The Mughal Empire

Fisher_The Mughal Empire_1-5; 93-107

Fri: Decline of the Mughals

Markovitz_History of Modern India_172-183

Alam_Crisis of Empire in Mughal North India_18-43

WEEK 2 (April 8-12): Company Raj

Textbook Chapter 3

Mon: From Shopkeepers to Rulers: The British East India Company

Seely_Expansion of England_197-216

Marshall_British Expansion in India in the Eighteenth Century: A Historical Revision_28-43

Wed: Modes of Engagement: *Nabob & Sahib*

Collingham_Imperial Bodies_13-49; 50-92

Fri: Orientalism vs. Anglicism_Primary Source Analysis (G1)

Excerpts from the writings of William Jones and Thomas Babington Macaulay_Imperialism and Orientalism: A Documentary Sourcebook_54-62

Excerpt from Alexander Duff_New Era of the English Language_1-42

WEEK 3 (April 15-19): Sowing the Seeds of Rebellion

Textbook Chapter 4

Mon: Saving the Women of India?

Lata Mani_Contentious Tradition_88-121

Wed: 1857: Mutiny? Revolt? War of Independence?

Irfan Habib_The Coming of 1857_6-15

Ramesh Rawat_Perceptions of 1857_15-25

Fri: Understanding 1857_Primary Source Analysis (G2)

Excerpts from Benjamin Disraeli, Alexander Duff, Sir John Lawrence, David Urquhart, Sir John Kaye, G.B. Malleson, Savarkar, F.W. Buckler, Joshi, Sen_1857 in India: Mutiny or War of Independence_ 4-19; 22; 27-33; 39-51; 59-61; 80-83

WEEK 4 (April 22-26): Forging the Nation

Textbook Chapter 5 (read over weeks 4 & 5)

Mon: What is a Nation?

Renan_What is a Nation?_143-155
Nehru_The Discovery of India_35-51

Wed: The Rise of the Indian Nation

Massetos_The Indian National Congress_62-73

Fri: Critiques of the Raj_Primary Source Analysis (G3)

Excerpts from the writings of R.C. Dutt, Gokhale and Naoroji_Sources of Indian History_122-127; 115-116; 94-96

Excerpts from the writings of Tilak_Address to the Indian National Congress_719-723

WEEK 5 (April 29- May3): Challenges to the Indian Nation

Textbook Chapter 5 (finish reading this week)

Mon: Communalism: Innate Identity or Colonial Construct

Jones_Religious Identity and the Indian Census_73-101
Pandey_Colonial Construction of Communalism_132-168

Wed: Caste: The Invention of Tradition?

Mines_Caste in India_37-46
Dirks_Castes of Mind_3-42

Fri: MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 6 (May 6-10): Challenges to the Indian Nation (cont.)

Mon: MIDTERM BREAK

Wed: Hindu Extremism and Muslims

Masselos_Hindu Militancy & Extremist Politics_74-108

Fri: Forging the Muslim Nation in India_Primary Source Analysis (G4)

Hunter_The Indian Musalmans_138-173

Excerpts from the writings of M. Iqbal, M. A. Jinnah, A.K. Azad_Sources of Indian History_218-222; 226-233; 236-241

WEEK 7 (May 13-17): Gandhi

Textbook Chapter 6

Mon: Gandhi: The Visionary

Bilgrami_Gandhi the Philosopher_4159-4165

Terchek_Gandhi: Struggling for Autonomy_21-43

Wed: Gandhi: The Activist

Suchitra_What Moves Masses: Dandi March_753-746

Bayly_Origins of Swadeshi_172-205

Fri: *Hind Swaraj*_Primary Source Analysis (G5)

Gandhi_Hind Swaraj_1-71

WEEK 8 (May 20-24): Many Fragment, Single Nation?

Textbook Chapter 7

Mon: Critiques of Gandhi

Zelliot_ Gandhi and Ambedkar_69-95

Wed: Competing Visions of Development

Baird_Nehru and Gandhi_19-37

Jodhka_Nation & Village_3343-3352

Fri: Imagining the Hindu Nation_Primary Source Analysis (G6)

Savarkar_Essentials of Hindutva_3-55

WEEK 9 (May 27-31): 1947: Freedom at Last!

Please view the documentary, *The Day India Burned* (link on Moodle) BEFORE class on Monday (link on Moodle). Also please note that all groups should come having done the

readings assigned to them – it is imperative that you do this so that we can have a constructive workshop.

Mon: Historiography Workshop

Common reading for all groups: Guha_Historiography_37-43

Readings for G1:

Holland_The Imperial Factor_165-184

Brasted & Bridge_Labour's Gift to India_3-28

Readings for G2:

Darwin_The End of Empire_10-36

Tomlinson_Political Economy of the Raj_133-137

Readings for G3:

Moore_Jinnah and Pakistan_529-561

Jalal_Jinnah the Sole Spokesman_1-5; 242-293

Readings for G4:

Roy_High Politics of Partition_385-408

Singh_Decolonization in India_191-209

Readings for G5:

Pandey_Remembering Partition_121-151

Butalia_The Other Side of Silence_3-26; 347-371

Readings for G6:

Zamindar_The Long Partition_1-16; 19-76; 229-239

Wed: Presentations for G1 & G2

Fri: Presentations for G3 & G4

WEEK 10 (June 3-5): Homeless in the Homeland: A View from Below

Mon: Presentations for G5 & G6

Wed: Legacy of Partition & Review for Final Exam

Talbot & Singh_Partition Legacies_127-153

June - FINAL EXAM