

HISTORY 3315 CIVILIZATION OF INDIA

DR. GOLDSTEIN

SPRING SEMESTER 2011 [Jan. 6—April 28]

Thus.. 5:30-8 PM

Biology Bldg. Rm. 144

LEARNING OUTCOMES AND MAJOR TOPICS YOU WILL BECOME FAMILIAR WITH BY THE END OF THIS COURSE:

The Indian subcontinent contains the modern states of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Sikkim. This land mass, along with India's offshore islands and the independent island/nations of Sri Lanka and the Maldives, contain approximately one-fifth of the world's population. It is a region of undisputed economic and strategic importance in the world today.

The region has a long history and is composed of many cultures. India has provided much of the cultural and religious background not only for China, Japan, and Korea but for the rest of East and Southeast Asia. The modern history of this region reflects many of the struggles other nations have experienced in the past century.

The purpose of this course is to convey an understanding of the history of this region and to develop a sophistication for dealing with the history of any society. The lectures, discussions, and readings will aim at:

- a) **analyzing** the historical background out of which modern India and South Asia has emerged;
- b) **explaining** major developments in the region's modern evolution; and
- c) **establishing the relationship** between the region's past and its role in the world today.

Required Materials

Wolpert, Stanley. A New History of India. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. **Eighth Edition only**. [Paperback].

Markandaya, Kamala. Nectar in a Sieve. New York: New American Library, 1982. [Paperback, ISBN#0-451-15347-2].

Two 8 ½" x 11" examination blue books to be collected at the beginning of the second meeting of class, January 13. Please do not put your name on these blue books.

Additional readings may be assigned in class during the semester, especially handouts on specific topics. You will be responsible for reading such handouts.

Class Meetings and Course Organization

Of the scheduled class meetings, all but two will be given over to lectures and discussion. Two will be reserved for examinations.

Topically the course will be divided into two main parts:

- 1) The pre-modern experience on the Indian subcontinent;
- 2) The modern Indian experience (including the modern histories of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldiv Islands, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sikkim, and Sri Lanka).

Approximately equal time will be devoted to each part. A detailed assignment sheet for each part is attached. **Assignments should be read for the day they are assigned. Unannounced reading quizzes are possible on those days.** Notes should be taken on all homework readings and those notes, along with questions on them, should be brought to class. There is no need to bring textbooks to class, other than Markandaya on the day(s) when it is discussed.

Examinations and Grades

There will be two examinations which will cover all lecture material plus the assigned readings. The exact date, scope, and form of the exams will be announced at the appropriate time.

Each student must do a critical book review, details given below. Grades will be determined as follows:

Midterm exam	25%
Reading quizzes and other miscellaneous assignments.....	25%
Second exam.....	25%
Critical book review [Nov. 15]	25%

. Consistent with college regulations, graduating seniors will not be required to take the second exam in this course. Please let the professor know at least one week before the second exam if you do not wish to take it. In that case, your grade will then be the average of all other grades calculated as: midterm 33%, critical book review 33%, and quiz average 33%. For all other students, grades will be calculated as midterm 25%, term paper 25%, quiz average 25%, and final exam 25%.

Attendance/Disruption of Class/Plagiarism Policies

1. Regular Class Meetings. Attendance will be taken. Since we have only fourteen class meetings it is most important that everyone attend each class session. **Any more than two absences will be grounds for dismissal from class.** Two latenesses equals one absence. Leaving class at the break is also the equivalent to an entire cut. Disruption of the class and plagiarism are also grounds for dismissal from class. It should be made very clear that (a) students are responsible for all material presented in class, (b) examinations will be based substantially on this material, (c) a positive attitude shown by absence of cuts and lateness can work to raise a student's letter grade in borderline grading situations.

2. Examinations. Attendance at all announced examinations is required. Except under very exceptional circumstances, make-up exams will not be allowed unless the student is excused before the regular exam time.

3. In case of bomb scare, class will meet outside the front door of the library.

4. Out of courtesy to those students trying hard to concentrate, please refrain from smoking, drinking, eating, chewing and nail clipping in class. Please do not bring children to class. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING CELL PHONES, AUDIBLE PAGERS, OR ALARM WATCHES TO CLASS.** It is not sufficient to say “Oh, I’m sorry, I forgot to turn it off.” The student in front of you, behind you, or next to you may be on probation and HAVE TO do well in this course. It is therefore essential that we have a positive learning environment in the classroom.

If you come late to class or miss a class for any reason, be sure to see Dr. Goldstein in his office during regularly scheduled office hours, to pick up any handouts, quizzes, or assignments which you may have missed.

A positive learning atmosphere is essential in this classroom. Please do not distract the students around you by reading newspapers or doing work for other classes during class time. Feel free to use a lap top computer, but only for the purpose of note taking during this class. Playing chess and reading email during class time is inappropriate and very distracting to others. You will be asked to leave the lap top at home if you engage in such activities during class time.

Office Hours

My office is located in room 3207 of the TLC. Office hours are MW from 4:50 to 6:00 PM, Thus. from 8:10 to 9 PM, and by appointment. Students who have questions, who are concerned about their performance in class or on tests or would like simply to confer over a free cup of coffee should take it upon themselves to see the professor in his office. If you have any problems or questions, please do not hesitate to come by. Also feel free to telephone me at 678-839-6034 or 6508 and leave a message.

The worst time to try to confer is immediately before class, when I performing janitorial duties [cleaning the classroom], putting material on the blackboard, and passing out papers, quizzes and handouts.

Required Report

Prepare a comparative review of two books on a topic of relevance to South Asian history. Select works which deal with a common theme or historical period. A good topic is one which is narrow enough to enable coverage in a relatively short paper and broad enough to be feasible within the confines of our library resources. **The ideal choice of topic** is two contrasting biographies of such historically-significant figures as the great Indian unifier and Buddhist leader Asoka; Akbar the Great, Shah Jahan or any of the other four “Great” Mughal emperors; Nobel Prize winning nationalist poet Rabindranath Tagore; Theosophist and Indian nationalist leader Annie Besant; Indian freedom fighter Subaschandra Bose and his Indian National Army; Mahatma [Mohandas] Gandhi; Indira Gandhi or her son Rajiv Gandhi; Jawaharlal Nehru; Mohammed Ali Jinnah; any of the Aga Khans; British Governor Generals/Viscounts Clive, Cornwallis, or [Lord] Mountbatten; any of the industrialists from the families of J. R. D. Tata or Birla; British-

Indian Zoroastrian Parliamentarians Dadabhai Naoroji or Satlakavala [“Comrade Sak”]; musicians Zubin Mehta or Ravi Shankar; the nun Mother Teresa; or the Nobel prize-winning author V. S. Naipaul.

Report length: 5 - 8 pages. Questions which should be addressed **IN SEPARATE PARAGRAPHS** include the following. **Be sure to include these subheadings** at the beginning of each paragraph:

- [1] What subject matter does each author cover?
- [2] How does each handle this subject?
- [3] What is the major thrust or interpretation of each book?
- [4] What issues, if any, are subordinated so as to bring out the main focus?
- [5] What are the writers’ sources of information?
- [6] What are the authors’ biases? How do you know? Use Ingram Library sources to get biographical information about each author.
- [7] What basic assumptions does each writer make about the indigenous history and people of South Asia? About Westerners in South Asia?
- [8] How do you rate the authors in terms of scholarship, style, clarity, and persuasiveness?
- [9] In a final, concluding section **compare and contrast the two books and indicate what new information you have gained from them over and beyond the assigned readings from class. This final, concluding section is the most important part of your report and will be so emphasized in grading.**

Titles of books due before class Thus. Jan. 27. Papers are due before class Thus. April 7. One full letter grade will be deducted for each day the paper is turned in beyond the due date. If a paper is turned after the beginning of class it is still one day late. Computer glitches are not excuses for lateness, so be sure to leave plenty of time for corrections and proofreading.

You are encouraged to cite reviews of these books and information about the authors available in Ingram Library reference works such as the Book Review Digest and Contemporary Authors. If you do borrow such information, please include footnote references to them EITHER at the bottom of the page OR grouped together in a footnote section at the end of the paper. DO NOT use parenthetical footnotes in the middle of your paper: that interrupts the flow of your argument. Use the standard footnote reference form shown in Turabian, A Manual of Style, which is available in the reference section of Ingram Library. Internet sources appear and vanish rapidly. **If you use Internet sources please staple a legible hard copy of what you have cited onto the back of your report.**

All reports should be typed double-space. The professor places a strong emphasis upon high journalistic standards. Standard form for cover page, page numbering, and bibliography are expected. Allow a few days before the due date to make final corrections and editorial improvements. Check punctuation carefully, and look up the spelling of words you do not know in the dictionary. Points will be deducted for spelling errors.

If you use a work processor/printer, please be sure the print is very black and very legible. Show professor a printing sample in advance if you're in doubt. **Numerous mechanical errors, including faint or illegible print, are inexcusable in take-home assignments of this sort.** The professor is available during regular office hours and at other times by arrangement to discuss your paper and suggest sources.

A tentative schedule of assignments and due dates will be distributed separately.

Last Name in Capital Letters

First name in Capital letters

DUE BEFORE CLASS - - Thus. Jan. 27 –typed or in ink

Titles for Comparative Book Report:

Book #1:

Full title

First and last name of author

Name of Publisher

Place, Date of Publication

Book #2:

Full title

First and last name of author

Name of Publisher

Place, Date of Publication