Religious Studies 20

INDIAN CIVILIZATION

Winter 2014

MW 12:30-1:45, IV Theater

Instructors
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Office hours: T 10:00-12:30 / by appointment,
2125 Social Science and Media Building

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Description: The course begins with an examination of (1) the Indus culture and goes on to trace the developments associated with (2) the rise of Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs; (3) the arrival of Muslims and the British; (4) and the challenges of modernity and globalization presently faced by the people living in the Indian subcontinent. In the process, attention is paid to the evolution of religious beliefs, socio-political institutions, and literary and artistic achievements.

Requirements:
1. Section attendance (15%)
2. Two reading quizzes weeks 1-3 (January 27), weeks 6-8 (March 3) (15%)
   *Please bring a scantron form (pink) for each quiz
3. Midterm exam in class on Wednesday, February 6 (30%)
4. A research paper (8 pages) due in class on Wednesday, March 12 (40%)
   The topic of the paper is to be decided in consultation with the instructors

Readings:
The class reader is available at www.alternativecopy.com, Tel. 968-1055
The following are available at Davidson Reserve
1. A.T. Embree, ed., Sources of Indian Tradition (Columbia UP, 1988)

Schedule of Classes and Readings:

Week 1: January 6-8

I. Introduction
   “The Kumbh Mela,” a documentary about a major Hindu religious gathering
   Recommended: R. Thapar, “Landscapes and Peoples,” Early India (UC Press, 2004), 37-68

II. Indus Valley Civilization

Week 2: January 13-15

I. Early Aryan culture
   A. T. Embree, ed., Sources of Indian Tradition, 7-28
   H. Kulke and D. Rothermund, A History of India, 29-46

II. Classical period I
   A. T. Embree, ed., Sources of Indian Tradition, 43-48
   H. Kulke and D. Rothermund, A History of India, 47-102

Week 3: January 20-22
I. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
II. Classical period
P. Harvey, Buddhism (Cambridge University Press, 2003), 9-31
**“Sanchi,” a Marg documentary

Week 4: January 27-29

I. Jainism
A. Vallely, “Jaina Dharma,” in Sushil Mittal et al., eds., Religions of South Asia, 86-101
**“Ahimsa,” a Karma Presentations, 58 minutes (BL1351.2A356-92)

II. The Hindu way of life

Quiz 1
A. T. Embree, ed., Sources of Indian Tradition, 213-233
R. Thapar, Early India (UC Press, 2004), 462-489
**“Konarak,” a Marg documentary

Week 5: February 3-5

I. Arrival of Muslims
A. Wink, Al Hind (Delhi: OUP, 1999), 1: 192-218
R. Thapar, A History of India, (Penguin, 1985), 289-320
**“Vadali Brothers,” Sufi singing in the Punjab

II. The Mughals
Metcalfs, A Concise History of India, 1-27
C. Markovitz, India (Anthem, 2002), 150-171
**“Visions of Paradise,” a Marg documentary

Week 6: February 10-12

I. Mid-term Test (35%)

II. Around 1700
Metcalfs, A Concise History of India, 55-90
C. A. Bayly, Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire, 7-44

Week 7: February 17-19

I. President’s Day holiday

II. The Sikhs
G. S. Mann, “Sikhism,” The Columbia Companion of Eastern Religions
Who are the Sikh? A BBC film <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wM6C7ov6Yu8>

II. The Europeans
A. T. Embree, Imagining India (Delhi: OUP, 1989), 110-116
**“Shatranj ke Khiladi,” a film by Satyajit Ray

Week 8: February 24-26

I. Interaction with Modernity I
S. Hay, ed., Sources of Indian Tradition (New York: CUP, 1988), 2: 36-83
II. Interaction with Modernity II
S. Bose and A. Jalal, Modern South Asia. (Delhi: OUP, 1999), 107-125

Week 9: March 3-5

I. Rise of Nationalism and Partition of India
S. Bose and A. Jalal, Modern South Asia, 156-164
S. Sarkar, Modern India 1885-1947 (McMillan, 1986), 414-454
Recommended: U. Butalia, The Other Side of Silence (Delhi: Penguin, 1999)

II. Post-Independence India
S. Walpert, A New History of India, 371-405
*“Indira Gandhi,” a BBC film

Week 10: March 10-12

I. Post-Independence India
A.T. Embree, Utopias in Conflict (Berkeley: U C Press, 1990), 1-37
*“In the Name of God,” a film by Anand Patwardan

II. Global South Asians
J. M. Brown, Global South Asians (Cambridge: CUP, 2007), 29-58
*“Your Ever Well Wisher,” an ITV production

Final Paper due in class (35%)