

Communities and Conflict in India
Soc 294 (Fulfills M5 requirement)
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:50 – 2:00; Comenius 201

Professor Daniel Jasper

PPHAC 316

Office Hrs: Tuesdays 9:30-11:30; Thursdays 9:30-11:00; or by appointment

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Course Overview: The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the social complexity of modern India. We will pay particular attention to the historical, political, cultural and social forces that have shaped Indian modernity. The experience and effects of colonialism, nationalism, and globalization are central to the Indian experience. We will look at how these forces, and others, have constituted India as a country composed of different communities, commonly understood through the trope of ‘unity in diversity’. Our inquiry will focus on caste, religion, gender and regional-ethnic differences.

In order to develop a thorough understanding of the different forces that have shaped the experiences of different communities, we will employ a variety of types of sources. Historical and social scientific works will provide the academic and analytic foundations for this course. Literature, cinema, public debates, political reports and pamphlets will be utilized as social texts providing insight into the experiences of different communities.

Assignments and Expectations: First and foremost, students are expected to demonstrate a sustained effort at understanding Indian society and culture. This entails reading (and re-reading) assigned texts, participating in class presentations and discussion, and preparing thoughtful and well written assignments. Course time will be divided between lecture, group presentations, and discussion. All students will be responsible for participating in discussions, presenting material to the class, completing regular assignments, preparing three short essays, and completing a final project and final exam.

There is a blackboard site for this course. All students are expected to enroll in the site, and to check the site regularly for announcements. The password for the course site will be provided at the first course meeting. In this course we will use a good deal of online sources. The links to these, as well as accompanying assignments will be distributed through blackboard. It is the students responsibility to check the site regularly.

Grading:

Three Short Essays	20%
Final Project	20%
Class Preparedness and Preparation	20%
Regular assignments	20%
Final Exam	20%

Texts: The following texts are required, and can be purchased through the Moravian College Bookstore.

Deshpande, Satish. 2003. *Contemporary India A Sociological View*. Penguin (India).

Moon, Vasant. 2000. *Growing Up Untouchable in India: A Dalit Autobiography*. Rowman and Littlefield.

Sidhwa, Bapsi. 1992. *Cracking India*. Milkweed Editions.

Additional texts may be placed on reserve, posted via blackboard, or distributed in class.

For background information on India, consult the following.

The CIA world fact book on India:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/in.html>

World Bank's India at a glance:

http://www.worldbank.org/data/countrydata/aag/ind_aag.pdf

United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Human Development Report, excerpts on India and South Asia:

http://www.undp.org.in/hdr2004/India_SouthAsiaExtrts.PDF

Prof. Tim Lubin of Washington and Lee University has compiled an extensive list of web links on South Asia:

<http://home.wlu.edu/~lubint/Links.htm>

India: A Country Study from the Library of Congress is quite thorough:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/intoc.html>

Course Outline:

Background to geography and history of South Asia

Week 1 (January 17 & 19): Interpreting India Today

Waldman, Amy "India Accelerating", NY Times Dec. 4 – 7, 2005.

1.) <http://web.lexis->

[nexis.com/universe/document?_m=49fccbdf962d1e6eeab3f440c647f12&_docnum=5&_wchp=dGLzVzz-zSkVA&_md5=1c075ab5a4b6c9d3a57a7da10ed72d82](http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/document?_m=49fccbdf962d1e6eeab3f440c647f12&_docnum=5&_wchp=dGLzVzz-zSkVA&_md5=1c075ab5a4b6c9d3a57a7da10ed72d82)

2.) <http://web.lexis->

[nexis.com/universe/document?_m=49fccbdf962d1e6eeab3f440c647f12&_docnum=4&_wchp=dGLzVzz-zSkVA&_md5=bf5d604b1963695aaa0b3103c62e8205](http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/document?_m=49fccbdf962d1e6eeab3f440c647f12&_docnum=4&_wchp=dGLzVzz-zSkVA&_md5=bf5d604b1963695aaa0b3103c62e8205)

3.) <http://web.lexis->

[nexis.com/universe/document?_m=49fccbdf962d1e6eeab3f440c647f12&_docnum=3&_wchp=dGLzVzz-zSkVA&_md5=5b80a23f8e92496a46d117a860fd916b](http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/document?_m=49fccbdf962d1e6eeab3f440c647f12&_docnum=3&_wchp=dGLzVzz-zSkVA&_md5=5b80a23f8e92496a46d117a860fd916b)

4.) <http://web.lexis->

[nexis.com/universe/document?_m=49fccbdf962d1e6eeab3f440c647f12&_docnum=2&_wchp=dGLzVzz-zSkVA&_md5=9432800b11397b6fa704222b81ed2b0d](http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/document?_m=49fccbdf962d1e6eeab3f440c647f12&_docnum=2&_wchp=dGLzVzz-zSkVA&_md5=9432800b11397b6fa704222b81ed2b0d)

Week 2 (January 24 & 26): Introduction and Background to India.

Deshpande, ch. 1-3.

Study maps of Asia, South Asia, and India. Basic, but worthwhile, maps can be found at www.mapsofindia.com and <http://worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/in.htm>. Historic and academic maps can be found at the Digital South Asia Library (<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/maps/index.html>) and at Perry-Castañeda Library at the University of Texas (<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/india.html>)

Week 3 (January 31 & February 2): South Asian History and Indian Society.

Study the following timeline:

<https://dart.columbia.edu/southasia/timeline/index.html>

Explore the Indian History Sourcebook at

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/india/indiasbook.html>

Movie: *Lagaan*.

Mannathukkaren, Nissim. "Subalterns, Cricket and the 'Nation': The Silences of 'Lagaan'." *Economic and Political Weekly* 8 December, 2001.

Social Stratification

Week 4 (February 7 & 9): The Experience of Caste in the Past

Moon, Vasant. *Growing Up Untouchable in India: A Dalit Autobiography*. Rowman and Littlefield.

Ambedkar, Bhimrao, *The Annihilation of Caste*

<http://cnmtl.columbia.edu/projects/mmt/ambedkar/index.html>

Week 5 (February 14 & 16): The Experience of Caste Today

Human Rights Watch report, *Broken People*.

<http://www.hrw.org/reports/1999/india/>

Week 6 (February 21 & 23): Making Sense of Caste

Deshpande, ch. 5

Gupta, Dipankar "Hierarchy and Difference: An Introduction"

<http://members.tripod.com/~ascjnu/heirarc.html>

Week 7 (February 28 & March 2): Gendered Communities

Selected chapters from Sarkar and Butalia (eds.) *Women and Right Wing Movements in India*. Kali for Women.

Spring Break (March 7 & 9)

Communal Identities

Week 8 (March 14 & 16): Religion and the Nation

Sidhwa, Bapsi. *Cracking India*. Milkweed Editions.

Selected articles on Indian secularism and religious conflict.

Week 9 (March 21 & 23): Reporting and Regulating Religious Conflict

Human Rights Watch Reports:

We Have No Orders to Save You: <http://hrw.org/reports/2002/india/>
Politics By Other Means: <http://www.hrw.org/reports/1999/indiachr/>

Government of India, The Srikrishna Commission Report.
<http://www.sabrang.com/srikrish/sri%20main.htm>

Week 10 (March 28 & 30): The Legacy of Religious Conflict

Movie: *1947/Earth*

Deshpande, Ch. 4

Week 11 (April 4 & 6): Regional-Linguistic-Ethnic Movements: The case of Maharashtra

Readings TBA

No class on 4/4 for college day of service.

A Changing India

Week 12 (April 11 & 13): India in a Globalized World

Deshpande, ch. 7

Week 13 (April 18 & 20): The New Middle Class

Deshpande, ch. 6

Week 14 (April 25 & 27): Course Conclusion