

**Department of History  
Moravian College  
Spring 2010**

**History 191  
History of India  
(Section A) MW 11:45 – 12:55  
Comenius Hall 305**

Instructor: Ian Wendt  
Office: 302 Comenius Hall  
Office hours: MTWR 1:00-2:00; or by appointment  
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**Course Description:**

This course presents a broad introduction to the history and culture of India, or South Asia. South Asia includes the contemporary nation states of India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, as well as the surrounding Indian Ocean. Utilizing pre-modern and modern sources from the Indian tradition, we will examine the Vedas, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Indian states, caste society, folklore, British colonialism, Indian nationalism, and post-independence politics and society across South Asia. The long history of India is thoroughly interconnected with much of the history of Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the world. Those complex interconnections will be emphasized throughout the course. Student research, discussions and presentations will be based on primary sources.

**Course Goals:**

The materials, assignments, and instruction in this course are geared toward helping you develop the skills and attributes central to a historical and liberal arts education.

- To learn about the diverse histories, cultures, religions, and societies of South Asia, a region that contains about one-fourth of the world's population.
- To read and comprehend the primary sources and academic texts from South Asian history and culture;
- To think critically and analytically about sources, including core questions, arguments, perspectives, assumptions, supporting data/evidence, contexts, conclusions and implications;
- To communicate your ideas through discussion, presentation, and writing;
- To organize, frame and write clear and concise essays and papers that demonstrate the critical thinking skills described above;
- To better understand your own goals, perspectives and values as well as those of the diverse cultures and societies in our world.

**Required books in the Bookstore:**

Kulke, Hermann and Dietmar Rothermund. *A History of India*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Routledge, 2004.

Embree, Ainslee, ed. *Sources of Indian Tradition*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., vol. 1. Columbia University Press, 1988.

<b>Course Requirements and Grading:</b>	<b>points</b>
Participation	50
Attendance, Reading Assignments, Discussions, In-Class Essays	
Primary Source Papers (three)	75 (25 each)
3 pages each or 750 words	
Examinations (two)	50 (25 each)
Research Paper	50
7 to 8 pages, or 2000 words	
	225 points

**Description of Assignments:**

**Participation:** Attendance, demonstrating your comprehension of reading materials, asking questions, and participating in discussions will all be evaluated as part of the course. We will read and discuss numerous primary sources from diverse Indian philosophical, religious, cultural and historical contexts. Your preparation and participation in these discussions will be critical to our learning experience in this course. Participation will also be measured by periodic *in-class essays*, which will encourage you to think analytically and critically about the themes from class that day.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance will be taken regularly during the semester. Failure to attend class on a regular basis will lower your participation grade, and will certainly affect your ability to perform well on examinations, essays and papers.

**Note:** The reading materials and the lecture or discussion content in the classroom are complimentary, but not identical. The reading materials will be crucial to your writing assignments, including exams. We will not cover every subject from the books in our class meetings. In addition, some materials that are not in the books will be introduced in the classroom. Therefore it is very important that you participate in every aspect of the course.

**Primary Source Papers (Three):** You will have the opportunity to research three topics of particular interest to you and write short papers. We will consult together regarding appropriate topics. The main research sources for these papers will be the primary or original sources from the Indian tradition. Other sources may include other assigned readings, lecture material, and additional library texts on your chosen topic. These papers will be up to three pages or 750 words long. Your papers should demonstrate research, critical thinking, argumentation, organization, substantiating detail, citation of sources, and good writing style.

**Examinations:** The two class examinations will cover the broad themes of the course. They will include geography, short answers, and short essays.

**Research Paper:** The Research Paper assignment will give you an opportunity to delve further into a specific topic of interest to you in Indian History. I encourage you to expand and revise

one of your short primary source papers. The topic and bibliography must both be approved by the instructor, (see calendar for dates). Your sources should include both the required texts and additional sources from the library. The paper will be 7 to 8 pages long or about 2000 words. It should demonstrate research, critical thinking, argumentation, organization, substantiating detail, citation of sources, and good writing style.

*All written assignments must be submitted both on paper and electronically as an email attachment to [iwendt@moravian.edu](mailto:iwendt@moravian.edu)*

### **Grading Rubric:**

Your written work will be evaluated based on the following principles (adapted from the Critical Thinking Rubric).

**Problem/Argumentation:** Essays and papers must make clear arguments or address clear themes.

The *problem* or *question* identifies the central argument, or main point, and it should be stated clearly in the beginning of the essay. The essay should then proceed to make clear *substantiating arguments* that develop that central problem, question or theme.

**Organization:** Essays and papers should be well organized with an introduction, body and conclusion. The *introduction* includes the problem or question, a description of the paper's organization, and other brief introductory thoughts. The *body* develops the substantiating arguments of the essay and utilizes evidence and details to support those ideas. The *conclusion* is more than a summary; it ought to trace the implications and consequences derived from the evidence presented in order to draw concluding insights.

**Evidence:** The body of the paper or essay must support its arguments with detailed evidence drawn from lecture and reading sources. The best essays are very specific and detailed, and examine the sources of evidence. Weaker essays are vague, unspecific and repetitive, make little use of reading materials, and make false evidentiary claims.

**Citations:** Your essays must identify their sources. Cite your sources with either footnotes or parenthetical references. For example: (Embree, 52.) Quoted sections must be bracketed by quotation marks and cited. Failure to cite sources can result in plagiarism. Carefully citing sources will always improve your essay's evaluation.

**Language:** Your writing should be correctly spelled, grammatical and clear. Weak language includes misspellings, incorrect grammar, and incoherent or unclear sentences.

Your grades will be recorded and calculated on a percentile scale:

	93%+ = A	90%+ = A-
87%+ = B+	83%+ = B	80%+ = B-
77%+ = C+	73%+ = C	70%+ = C-
60%+ = D	below 50% = F	

*Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day.*

I reserve some room for flexibility and discretion in grading. Hard work, overall improvement, and thorough engagement in the course and course material will be considered favorably.

**Calendar:**

- Week 1      January 18, 20  
Introduction & Preview  
Physical and Social Geography of South Asia  
Indus Valley Civilization  
**Read** Kulke, 1-16;
- Week 2      January 25, 27  
Vedic Literature and Culture – Aryans in India?  
Brahmanism and Vedanta  
**Read** *Sources of Indian Tradition (SIT)* vol 1, Ch 1 & 2, pp. 1-40.  
Kulke, 17-49
- Week 3      February 1, 3  
Ancient Indian States and Society  
Ancient Empires  
Early Medieval Regional States  
**Read** *SIT*, v 1, Ch 9, pp. 201-212, 234-253.  
Kulke, 50-108, 109-161.
- Week 4      February 8, 10  
Ancient Indian Philosophical Schools  
Buddhism and Jainism – Ancient India and Sri Lanka  
**Read** *SIT*, v 1, Ch 3 & 4, pp. 41-92.
- Week 5      February 15, 17  
Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism  
**Read** *SIT*, v 1, Ch 5 & 6, pp. 93-187.  
**Primary Source Paper #1 Due in class Feb 17<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 6      February 22, 24  
Caste society  
Marriage, Sexuality and Culture  
The Hindu Synthesis and monumental temple architecture  
**Read** *SIT* v 1, Ch 8, pp. 213-233.  
*SIT* v 1, Ch 10 & 11, pp. 213-341.
- Week 7      March 1, 3  
The rise of Islam and its arrival in South Asia  
Turkish and Afghan conquests, the Delhi Sultanate & medieval kingdoms  
The spread and rooting of Islam in South Asia  
**Read** *SIT* v 1, Ch 13 & Ch 14, pp. 379-407, 408-446  
Kulke, 162-195  
**Primary Source Paper #2 Due in class March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*Spring Recess March 8-14*

- Week 8      March 15, 17  
 The Great Mughals – Babur, Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan, Aurangzeb  
 The Mughal Empire – thematic discussion  
**Read** Kulke, 196-214;  
**First Exam March 17<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 9      March 22, 24  
 Folklore  
 Bhakti, Sufism, Sikhism  
**Read** Kulke, 214-233;  
*SIT* v 1, Ch 12, Ch 15, & Ch 16, pp. 342-378, 447-490, 491-510
- Week 10     March 29, 31  
 Early Modern Society and Economy – East India Companies  
 Western Contacts and Indian Cultures  
 War and Conquest in the 18<sup>th</sup> century  
 The Company Raj – The Rise of Colonialism  
**Primary Source Paper #3 Due in class March 31<sup>st</sup>**
- Easter Recess – April 1 - 5*
- Week 11     April 7  
 Colonial institutions and ideologies – politics, economics  
 Colonial transitions and transformations – caste, religion, racism  
**Read** Kulke, 244-283.
- Week 12     April 12, 14  
 Hindu Reform & Islamic Reform and Revival  
 Early Nationalism – Moderates and Extremists  
 Nationalism – Gandhi, Congress, Muslim League  
**Read** Kulke, 284-324  
**Research Paper Topic and Bibliography Due in class April 12<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 13     April 19, 21  
 Independence and Partition  
 Post-Independence militancy and conflict – India, Pakistan, Kashmir, Bangladesh,  
 Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan  
**Read** Kulke, 325-370
- Week 14     April 26, 28  
 Post-Independence – socialism, capitalism, liberalization, and democracy  
 South Asia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century  
**Second Exam in class April 28<sup>th</sup>**
- Finals Week    May 3-7  
**Research Paper Due**

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If you have any problems or complaints associated with the course or the evaluation of your work, please feel free to talk to me. Visit me during office hours, or call or email me, for any assistance I may give you. If you are struggling with any course material, contact me. In particular, if you feel that you have been treated inappropriately, or if you have questions about the content or environment of the course, please come and talk to me. I look forward to working together and getting to know each other.

*Equity, Diversity, Trust and Respect*

In order for our meetings and discussions to be open, thoughtful and interactive, there must be an environment of trust and respect. You do not need to agree with everything other participants say, whether other students or the instructor. But discrimination or harassment against other class members due to race, gender, disability or any other reason is unacceptable. If you feel you have been treated unfairly or improperly in any way during the course, please come and talk to me. I will do everything I can to help rectify the situation.

*Disability Accommodations:*

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. Please provide documentation in support of accommodations you may require within the first three weeks of the term to the instructor.

*Academic Integrity*

Dr. Wendt and Moravian College are intolerant of any form for academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is using the language and/or thoughts of another person and representing them as your own. I expect all of your essays and papers to be your own work. When using language or ideas from a book or other source, you must properly reference that source. (Refer to the St. Martin's Handbook with any questions; or see me.) Feel free to study and discuss together with other members of the class. But your written assignments or exams must be your own work, and must cite all outside sources. The penalty for plagiarism is failing the course. The Student Conduct office will also be notified, and will proceed as appropriate with regard to student status and permanent records.