

**Department of History
Moravian College
Spring 2010**

**History 298
India: Community, Identity and Politics
MW 10:20 – 11:30
Comenius Hall 218**

Instructor: Ian Wendt
Office: 302 Comenius Hall
Office hours: MTWR 1:00-2:00; or by appointment
Phone: 610-861-7957 or 570-460-8841
Email: iwendt@moravian.edu

Course Description:

This course explores how the peoples of South Asia form communities and for identities. The peoples of South Asia identify themselves in many ways:

- nation (Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Afghanis, etc.),
- region, language & ethnicity (Punjabis, Kashmiris, Tamilians, etc.),
- religion (Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh)
- caste (Rajputs, Brahmins, Baniyas, Paraiyars, Dalits, etc.)
- gender (masculinity, femininity, sexuality, marriage, family, generation)

All of these categories create powerful gravitational centers around which communities form. But they also create boundaries, rifts and divisions that can result in political conflict and mass violence.

In this course we will examine the origins of these identities and some of the major causes of modern identity politics and conflict. Then you will examine a prominent form of community or identity and the conflicts related to that theme in your own research project.

Throughout the course we will examine the relationships between History and Historiography. Historical narratives are arguments about the past made with specific perspectives, sources and methods. Our task will be to delve beyond narratives and facts to examine debates, differing approaches and conflicting arguments on each of these topics.

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 examine, discuss and debate the cultural themes that shape community, identity and mass conflict in a broad array of cultural contexts throughout South Asia;
- To develop and practice historical research methods;

- To understand the relationships between history, historical sources, history writing, and historiographic debates;
- 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:

Grewal, J.S. *The Sikhs of the Punjab*. Cambridge University Press, 1990. (ISBN 0521637643)
 Ludden, David. *Contesting the Nation: Religion, community and the politics of democracy in India*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996. (ISBN 0812215850)
 Schofield, Victoria. *Kashmir in conflict: India, Pakistan and the unending war*. I.B. Tauris, 2003. (ISBN 1860648983)

Course Requirements and Grading:	points
Participation	50
Attendance, Reading Assignments, Discussions, In-Class Essays	
Examination	25
Book reviews (two out of three)	50 (25 each)
3 pages each or 750 words	
Research Paper	
Topic & Bibliography	10
Historiography Essay Draft	40
7 to 8 pages, or 2000 words	
Peer Review	10
Final Historiographic Research Paper	75
15+ pages, or 4000 words	
	<hr/>
	260 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.

Examination: The class examination will cover the broad themes introduced in Unit One. It will be an in-class essay examination.

Book Reviews (Two out of Three): During Unit Two you will read the three assigned text books. You will write book reviews on at least *two* of these books. A third Book Review may be submitted for extra credit. Book Reviews should be three pages in length, about 750 words. These essays should focus on analyzing the core arguments of the book. They may briefly summarize the main themes of the book, but historiographic analysis of the thesis, arguments, methods, and sources of analysis is more important. How did the author or authors make historical arguments about the topics they addressed? What were their sources and methods? How did they respond to other historians and other historical approaches and arguments to make original contributions?

Historiographic Research Paper: The Research Paper assignment will give you an opportunity to delve further into a specific topic of interest to you related to the community, identity, politics and mass conflict in modern South Asia. You may certainly build on themes from your earlier reading and research from Unit Two.

The *topic and bibliography* must both be approved by the instructor, (see calendar for dates). You will write a *Historiographic Essay Draft* of your paper (7-8 pages), due just prior to the last week of classes. It will be due via email. You will then *review* one other student's paper. Your review will be given both orally and in writing.

The final revised *Historiographic Research Paper* will be 15+ pages long or about 4000 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

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: (Ludden, 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:

Unit One – Introduction to the History and Culture of South Asia

- Week 1 January 18, 20
 Introduction & Preview
 Geography and Community
- Week 2 January 25, 27
 The Roots of the Hindu Tradition
 The Hindu Synthesis
- Week 3 February 1, 3
 Community and Social Organization
 Caste and Gender
 Dharma and Hindu Law
- Week 4 February 8, 10
 Islam in South Asia
- Week 5 February 15, 17
 Bhakti, Sufism, Sikhism
 Syncretism and Orthodoxy

In Class Examination #1

Unit Two – Identity, Politics and Mass Conflict in Modern South Asia

- Week 6 February 22, 24
 The Sikhs
 Religion, syncretism, politics & conflict
 Colonialism, martial races, masculinity
- Week 7 March 1, 3
 The Sikhs continued
 Nationalism, Partition
 Independence, Sikh Nationalism, Terrorism

Book Review #1 Due in class March 3rd *The Sikh of the Punjab*

Spring Recess March 8-14

- Week 8 March 15, 17
 Hindu Nationalism
 Partition, Congress and the rise of opposition politics
 Hindutva & the Sangh

Week 9 March 22, 24
Hindu Nationalism, continued
Ayodhya, Babri Masjid & Ramjanbhoomi
The BJP's rise to power
Book Review #2 Due in class March 24th *Contesting the Nation*

Week 10 March 29, 31
Religious Conflict in Kashmir
Partition, India, Pakistan, War

Easter Recess – April 1 - 5

Week 11 April 7
Religious Conflict in Kashmir
Afghanistan, Mujahideen, and Insurgency in Kashmir
War on Terror
Book Review #3 Due in class, April 7th *Kashmir in Conflict*

Unit Three – Historiographic Research and Analysis

Week 12 April 12, 14
Individual Consultations on Research Projects
Research Paper Topic and Bibliography Due in class April 12th

Week 13 April 19, 21
History and Historiography
History Research

Week 14 April 26, 28
Historiographic Essay Draft Due April 24th via email
Peer Reviews in Class
Conclusions

Finals Week May 3-7
Revised Historiographic Research Paper Due

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.