

Nation, Religion, and Region in India

Soc 268, LinC M5 requirement

Spring 2012; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35-3:45; PPHAC 335

Professor Daniel Jasper

PPHAC 316

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30 – 12:30, Thursdays & Fridays 10:30 – 11:30; other times by appointment

djasper@moravian.edu

610.625.7882

Course Overview: This course is an introduction to the history, culture, and society of India. The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the social complexity of modern India. We will pay particular attention to the Indian experience of modernity. We will look at the historical, political, cultural and social forces that have shaped Indian modernity and how these have shaped the uniqueness of the Indian experience. 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. The course will highlight the development of national, religious, and regional communities.

The central organizing theme of the course is how disparate social groups come to see themselves as communities. 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, journalism, political reports and pamphlets will be utilized as social texts providing insight into the experiences of different communities.

This course does not seek to be comprehensive in its presentation of Indian history, culture and society. Instead, we will investigate particular histories, cultural forms, and social dynamics, looking at how these particulars can illuminate aspects of social and cultural life in South Asia. Our readings will primarily be academic articles and book chapters focused on particular phenomena. Students will need to be willing to delve into these texts focusing on what they tell the reader.

Course Goals: By the end of the semester, students will:

- Develop a familiarity with contemporary India
- Become familiar with the dynamics shaping modern India
- Develop an understanding of the ways in which communities are formed and interact with others.
- Develop their familiarity with analytic journalism and ethnography
- Improve their ability to construct and analyze academic arguments
- Improve their ability to present academic concepts and ideas to others
- Further develop their writing and oral presentation skills
- Further develop their ability to read closely
- Further develop their ability to debate intellectual and contemporary issues

Course Requirements and Expectations: It is expected that all students conduct themselves as professional scholars in this course. This means that students will arrive for class on time, prepared to participate in the collective work of the course. Students will have all necessary materials with them—including the texts under discussion, and leave unnecessary distractions (such as cell phones) behind.

It is expected that all students will have thoroughly and thoughtfully completed the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss these. Students are expected to regularly contribute to in-class discussions with reactions and responses that deal directly with the issues and texts being considered.

Students must abide by the conventions of scholarly work, most importantly, the conventions of citation. All students should read and be familiar with the college policy on Academic Honesty included in the student handbook. All written work must include full and proper citations. There are no exceptions, including ignorance. Cheating and plagiarism will result in failing this course.

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, seminar discussions, small group work and informal presentations.

There is a blackboard site for this course. Assignment guidelines, supplemental readings, and course announcements will be posted to the site. Students are expected to check the site regularly. I will communicate through the announcements feature of blackboard and through Moravian email—it is expected that all students will check these regularly. Please note that I do not open emails that lack a subject heading. When sending me an email, be sure to include a relevant subject.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

Student Assessment: Students will have a variety of opportunities to demonstrate their engagement with and mastery of course material. These opportunities will include in-class quizzes and writing (10% of final grade); three short film-essays (30% of final grade—10% each); An annotated bibliography essay (20% of final grade); a final essay (20% of final grade). Regular and sustained participation in the collective work of the course will account for 20% of the final grade.

Final Grades

	87-89.9 = B+	77-79.9 = C+	67-69.9 = D+
93-100 = A	83-86.9 = B	73-76.9 = C	63-66.9 = D
90-92.9 = A-	80-82.9 = B-	70-72.9 = C-	60-62.9 = D-
Below 60 points = F			

Required Texts: There are no texts required for purchase. The materials for this course will be available through internet resources, blackboard, or Reeves Library. While it is not necessary to purchase any texts, students will be responsible for printing copies of the required readings and bringing them to class.

Course Schedule

Please note, the outline below is merely a guide. Changes will occur as the semester progresses.

Week 1 (January 17th & 19th) An Introduction to the Course; Situating South Asia

Read: study maps of Asia, South Asia, and India. Basic, but worthwhile, maps can be found at <http://worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/in.htm> and www.mapsofindia.com. 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 2 (January 24th & 26th) Situating the history of South Asia

Read: closely explore the timeline of South Asian history at <http://dart.columbia.edu/southasia/timeline/index.html>; the Indian Routes Timeline: <http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00routes/>; and the Indian History Sourcebook at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/india/indiasbook.html>

No class meeting on January 26th, watch *Lagaan* (link on Blackboard)

Week 3 (January 31st & February 2nd) A Quick History of India

Read: Selections from Wolpert and Robb
Film Essay 1 Due on January 31st

Week 4 (February 7th & 9th) Colonialism, Nationalism, and Indian Modernity

Read: Macaulay's *Minute on Education*:
<http://www.english.ucsb.edu/faculty/rraleey/research/english/macaulay.html>
Tilak's 1907 *Address to the Congress*:
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1907tilak.html>
Hind Swaraj by Gandhi: <http://www.mkgandhi.org/swarajya/hindswaraj.htm>

Week 5 (February 14th & 16th) Forging the national community

Read: Courtwright on Ganesha festival; Masselos on Prabhat Pheris.

Week 6 (February 21st & 23rd) Distinguishing the national and the religious

Read:
No Class on February 23rd, watch *Earth* (link on Blackboard)

Week 7 (February 28th & March 1st) Who invented Hinduism?

Read: DN Lorenzen, 'Who Invented Hinduism?'
Film Essay 2 Due on February 28th

Week 8 (March 6th & 8th) Spring Break

No Classes Held

Week 9 (March 13th & 17th): Political Economy of Nationalism

Read: Satish Deshpande, 'The Nation as an Imagined Economy'.

Week 10 (March 20th & 22nd) Debates about Personal Law

Read: TBA

Week 11 (March 27th & 29th) Language Politics

Read: Ramaswamy, Tikkekar

Week 12 (April 3rd & 5th) Religion and the 'secular' nation

Read: TBA

No class on April 5th, watch *Mi Shivajiraje Bhosale Boltoy* (link on Blackboard).

Week 13 (April 10th & 12th): 'History' and Regional Pride in Maharashtra

Read: TBA

Film Essay 3 due on April 10th

Week 14 (April 17th & 19th)

Read: TBA

Annotated Bibliography due on April 19th.

Week 15 (April 24th & 26th) Course Conclusion

Read: TBA

Scheduled Final Exam Time: Friday May 4th @ 1:30pm.