

Nation, Religion, and Region in India
Soc 268, LinC M5 requirement, Fall 2013
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35-3:45; PPHAC 338

Professor Daniel Jasper
PPHAC 316

Office Hours: To be posted on Blackboard and by office door
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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 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: This course is designed as a collaborative inquiry. While there will be 'lectures' on occasion, the majority of our class time will be spent 'doing

things’, especially, having active discussions. It is expected that all students will be prepared for these discussions by thoroughly completing the readings and assignments, and spending time reflecting upon what they are learning before class begins. Doing so will allow students to regularly contribute to in-class discussions with reactions and responses that deal directly with the issues and texts being considered. Students are expected to arrive for class on time with all of the necessary materials—including the texts under discussion. Unnecessary distractions should be left at home.

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.

There is a blackboard site for this course. You should enroll in the site using the password “India”. Nearly all of our course readings will be posted to this site. I highly recommend that you keep a binder where you can collect the readings and your notes on them in one place. Weekly assignments and essay guidelines, along with course announcements, will be posted to blackboard. 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 (e.g. Soc268-Question about class).

A note on Academic Honesty: As professional scholars, students must abide by the conventions of scholarly work, most importantly, the conventions of citation. All members of this course should read, re-read, and familiarize themselves 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.

A note on Accommodations: Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Student Assessment: Students will have a variety of opportunities to demonstrate their engagement with and mastery of course material. These opportunities will include weekly responses—these will take the form of brief comments on the readings, quizzes, and other activities (30% of final grade); three short film-essays (30% of final grade—10% each); An annotated bibliography research essay (15% of final grade); a final essay (15% of final grade). Regular and sustained participation in the collective work of the course will account for 10% 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. Students are responsible for bringing copies of the assigned texts to class.

Course Schedule

Please note, the outline below is merely a guide. Changes will occur as the semester progresses. Please also note that weekly assignments will be posted to blackboard. Be sure to check there for assignments to complete before class.

Week 1 An Introduction to the course.

Tuesday, August 27th What to expect.

Thursday, August 29th Situating South Asia.

Study: maps of Asia, South Asia, and India. For background, you can find basic, but worthwhile, maps can be found at <http://worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/in.htm> and www.mapsofindia.com. Your written assignment will focus on historical and academic maps 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>)

Complete: Assignment 1 on Blackboard

Week 2 (September 3rd & 5th) A whirlwind History of South Asia

(This would be a good week to watch *Lagaan*.)

Tuesday, September 3rd A Quick History of India

Read: Selections from Stanley Wolpert *India 3E* (California, 2005) Blackboard

Complete: Assignment 2 on Blackboard

Thursday, September 5th

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>

Week 3 (September 10th & 12th) Colonialism and Modern India

Tuesday, September 10th

Read: Selections from Peter Robb *A History of India*. (Palgrave, 2002) Blackboard

Thursday, September 12th Colonialism, Nationalism, and Indian Modernity

Read: Macaulay's *Minute on Education*:

<http://www.english.ucsb.edu/faculty/rraley/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 4 (September 17th & 19th) Forging the national community

Tuesday, September 17th Summing up

Due: Essay 1 on *Lagaan* is due today. Bring to class.

Thursday, September 19th The Ganesha Festival

Read: Paul Courtright, *Ganeśa* (Oxford, 1985) Blackboard

Week 5 (September 24th & 26th) Distinguishing Nation and Religion

Tuesday, September 24th

Read: Shahid Amin, “Gandhi as Mahatma” in *Selected Subaltern Studies*

Thursday September 26th Political Economy of Nationalism

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

Sanjay Joshi, “Republicizing Religiosity”

Week 6 (October 1st & 3rd) Making sense of religion and nation

Tuesday, October 1st Who invented Hinduism?

Read: DN Lorenzen, ‘Who Invented Hinduism?’ *CSSH* 41: 4 (1999)

Thursday, October 3rd

Read: Gyan Pandey, ‘Can a Muslim be an Indian?’ *CSSH* 41: 4 (1999)

Week 7 (October 8th & 10th) Personal Law

Tuesday, October 8th

Read: Marc Galanter “Hinduism, Secularism, and the Indian Judiciary”

Thursday, October 10th

Read: Marc Galanter and Jayanth Krishnan “Personal Law Systems and Religious Conflict”

Week 8 (October 15th & 17th)

Tuesday October 15th – No Class for Fall Recess

Thursday October 17th Working on Annotated Bibliographies

Week 9 (October 22nd & 24th)

Tuesday, October 22nd:

Due: Essay 2 on *Earth* is due today, bring to class.

There is a lecture by Chris Hedges at 7:30 pm (Prosser) on October 22nd – All students are highly encouraged to attend

Thursday, October 24th

Week 10 (October 29th & 31st) The Basis of Regional Identity

Tuesday, October 29th Language

Read: Sumathi Ramaswamy, “Home away from Home?”

Thursday, October 31st

Read: Surinder S. Jodhka, “Regions and Communities”

Week 11 (November 6th & 8th) Regionalism and Institutions

Tuesday, November 6th Education

Read: Veena Naregal, *Language Politics, Elites, and the Public Sphere*.

Read: Veronique Benei, *Schooling Passions*.

Thursday, November 8th Politics

Read: Jaffrelot, C., & Verniers, G. (2011). Re-nationalization of India's Political Party System or Continued Prevalence of Regionalism and Ethnicity? Evidence from the 2009 General Elections. *ASIAN SURVEY*, 51(6), 1090-1112 (Blackboard).

Week 12 (November 12th & 14th) Sharing our work

Tuesday, November 12th

Presentations

Thursday, November 14th

Presentations

Week 13 (November 19th & 21st) 'History' and Regional Pride in Maharashtra

Read: TBA

Tuesday, November 19th

Thursday, November 21st

Week 14 (November 26th & 28th) Thanksgiving Recess – No Class Meetings this week

Week 15th (December 3rd & 5th) Putting it all together

Tuesday, December 3rd

Thursday, December 5th

Final Exam scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th at 1:30 pm. Final Essays must be submitted before this time. Submit Essays via email (as attached Word .pdf file) to djasper@moravian.edu.