

Nation, Religion, and Region in India
Soc 268, LinC M5 requirement, Spring 2016
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35-3:45; PPHAC 335

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.
- Improve their ability to construct and analyze academic arguments
- 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 the Academic Support Center, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. 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); two short essays (20% of final grade—10% each); An annotated bibliography research essay (15% of final grade); a final essay (10% of final grade). Students will demonstrate their sustained engagement with the course through a journal (10% of final grade). Regular and sustained participation in the collective work of the course will account for 15% 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 (January 19 & 21): An Introduction to the course.

Tuesday, January 19th What to expect.

Thursday, January 21st Situating South Asia.

Study: maps of Asia, South Asia, and India. For background, you can find basic, but worthwhile, maps 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 (January 26 & 28): A whirlwind History of South Asia

Tuesday, January 26th A Quick History of India

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

Complete: Assignment 2 on Blackboard

Thursday, January 28th

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 (February 2 & 4): Colonialism and Modern India

Tuesday, February 2nd

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

Thursday, February 4th Colonialism, Nationalism, and Indian Modernity

Read: Macaulay's *Minute on Education*:

<http://www.english.ucsb.edu/faculty/rraleigh/research/english/macaulay.html>

Tilak's 1907 *Address to the Congress*:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1907tilak.html>

Hind Swaraj by Gandhi:

<http://soilandhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/0303critic/hind%20swaraj.pdf>

Week 4 (February 9 & 11): Distinguishing Nation and Religion

Tuesday, February 9th

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

Tuesday, Feb. 9th: Mario Joseph

Thursday, February 11th Political Economy of Nationalism

Read: Satish Deshpande, 'The Nation as an Imagined Economy'.
Sanjay Joshi, "Republicizing Religiosity"

Week 5 (February 16 & 18): Making sense of religion and nation

Tuesday, February 16th Who invented Hinduism?

Read: DN Lorenzen, 'Who Invented Hinduism?' *CSSH* 41: 4 (1999); Will Sweetman, "Unity and Plurality: Hinduism and the Religions of India in Early European Scholarship", *Religion* (2001) 31: 209-34.

Wednesday, Feb. 17th: Diane Nash at Lafayette

Thursday, February 18th

Read: Gyan Pandey, 'Can a Muslim be an Indian?' *CSSH* 41: 4 (1999); R.E. Frykenberg, "Constructions of Hinduism at the Nexus of History and Religion", *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* XXIII: 3 (Winter 1993), 523-550.

Week 6 (February 23 & 25): Personal Law

Tuesday, February 23rd

Read: Marc Galanter "Hinduism, Secularism, and the Indian Judiciary"

Thursday, February 25th

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

Thursday, Feb. 25th: James Peterson

7:30, Foy Hall

Week 7 (March 1 & 3): Toleration and Conversion

Tuesday, March 1

Read: C.S. Adcock, *The Limits of Tolerance: Indian Secularism and the Politics of Religious Freedom* (Oxford U.P., 2014), selections

Thursday, March 3

Read: Chad Bauman, "The Violence of Conversion: Proselytization and Interreligious Controversy in the work of Swami Dayananda Saraswati", *Open Theology* 2015, 1: 175-188.

Week 8 (March 8 & 10): No Class Meetings - Spring Recess

Week 9 (March 15 & 17): Religion in the Nation: Village and City

Tuesday, March 15th

Read: Nathaniel Roberts, “From Village to City: Hinduism and the ‘Hindu Caste System’”; Paul Courtright, *Ganeśa* (Oxford, 1985), selections.

Thursday, March 17th

Working on Annotated Bibliographies

Week 10 (March 22 & 24): The Basis of Regional Identity

Tuesday, March 22nd Language

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

Thursday, March 24th

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

Week 11 (March 29 & 31): Regionalism and Institutions

Tuesday, March 29th

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

Thursday, March 31st

Read: Veronique Benei, *Schooling Passions*.

Week 12 (April 5 & 7): Politics

Tuesday, April 5th

Read: C. Jaffrelot and G. Verniers “Re-nationalization of India’s Political Party System or Continued Prevalence of Regionalism and Ethnicity” *Asian Survey* (2011) 51, 6: 1090-1112.

Thursday, April 7th

Read: Rajeshwari Deshpande, “Bhagwanadavarun Mala Mumbai Disate Aahe: How Caste Survives amidst Democratic Politics”. In *Rethinking Western India* (Orient Blackswan, 2014)

Week 13 (April 12 & 14): Sharing our work

Tuesday, April 12th

Presentations

Thursday, April 14th

Presentations

Week 14 (April 19 & 21): ‘History’ and Regional Pride in Maharashtra

Read: TBA

Tuesday, April 19th

Thursday, April 21st

Week 15 (April 26 & 28): Putting it all together

Week 16 (Exam Week)

Final Exam scheduled for Monday, May 2nd at 3:00 pm. Final Essays must be submitted before this time. Submit Essays via email (as attached Word .pdf file) to djasper@moravian.edu.