

## PT 306 Liberalism and Empire: the case of India

**Tue/Thu 10:45-12:15, SR 4**

Seminar Leader: Ewa Atanassow

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Office Hours: Wed 15:30-16:30 or by appointment

### **Course Description**

What is liberalism: a philosophical outlook or a set of institutions; an economic program or a mode of public discourse; a Western ideology or the first global political movement? Are liberalism and imperialism antithetical, or are they mutually constitutive? In this course we will grapple with these questions both historically and conceptually, by scrutinizing liberalism's relationship to the construction and deconstruction of British rule in India. We'll encounter thinkers and political actors, activists and artists on both sides of the colonial divide who themselves wrestled with these questions, and proposed alternative ways of understanding them. We'll engage with works by B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, Karuna Mantena, Uday Mehta, J.S. Mill, Jawaharlal Nehru, George Orwell, Satyajit Ray, Arundhati Roy, Rabindranath Tagore, Bapsi Sidhwa among others. Along with considering alternative understandings of liberalism, and gaining familiarity with key moments and figures in the history of modern India, in this course we will learn how to develop a scholarly project by reflecting on different disciplinary approaches and practicing research skills.

### **Required Texts**

Mahatma Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj*

J.S. Mill, *Selected Writings*

Arundhati Roy, *The Doctor and the Saint*

Bapsi Sidhwa, *Cracking India: A Novel*

Rabindranath Tagore, *The Home and the World*

Course Reader

### **Library and Book Purchase Policies**

Students are expected to have at their disposal a hard copy of all required texts. Copies of the required books and additional readings are available on reserve at the library.

## Requirements

### Attendance and Participation

Careful preparation, regular attendance and active participation are essential to the success of this course. Absences beyond two will affect the seminar grade. **Please note:** arriving late or leaving in the middle of a session will count as half an absence.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FALL 2021: Some students may need to begin the semester remotely due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. In addition, all students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. Instructors should make efforts to offer alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options.

### Writing

Protocol writing and presentation: over the course of the semester, students will take turns to write protocols of the proceedings in each session, and present these at the beginning of the following session. A 'protocol' is a concise (750-1000 word) narrative account of the seminar discussion that recapitulates its main themes, and analyses a key issue articulating 1-3 questions for further discussion. The protocols should be circulated online **by midnight** on the day before the class meets.

Project Proposal and Final Essay: at the end of the semester students will write a substantial final essay of up to 3500 words on one aspect of the course material. To identify the final essay topic students are expected to conduct individual research throughout the term and submit (by Sunday, December 5) a 500-word proposal for the final essay topic, including bibliography, to be discussed with the instructor. The deadline for the final essay is December 17, 2021.

### Assessment

Assessment will be based on seminar participation (30%); protocol writing and presentation (20%); a project proposal (20%) and final essay (30%).

### Late Submission and Academic Integrity

Late papers will be downgraded in light of the policy outlined in the Student Handbook. Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

### Deadlines at a glance

The schedule for protocols will be set up by **Friday, September 3**

Proposal for final essay due **Sunday, December 5**

Final Essay deadline: **Friday, December 17**

## Schedule

Week	Date	Session 1	Session 2
1	Aug 30- Sept 3	Intro	Mehta, "Liberal Strategies of Exclusion" Windshuttle, "Rewriting the History of the British Empire"
2	Sept 6-10	<u>Liberalism and its discontents:</u> Mill, <i>On Liberty</i>	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i>
3	Sept 13-17	Mill, "Civilization"	Mill, <i>Considerations on Representative Government</i>
4	Sept 20-24	Mill, <i>Considerations</i>	<u>India before Britain:</u> Nehru, <i>Discovery of India</i> , ch 6.
5	Sept 27-Oct 1	The Chessplayers (Satyajit Ray, 1977)	Mill's Indian writings Nehru, <i>Discovery of India</i> , ch 7.
6	Oct 4-8	Tagore, <i>The Home and the World</i>	Tagore, <i>The Home and the World</i>
7	Oct 11-15	Tagore, <i>The Home and the World</i>	Special Session: Indian Art
	Oct 18-22	FALL BREAK	
8	Oct 25-29	Nehru, <i>Discovery of India</i> , ch 8	<i>Gandhi</i> , the film Orwell on Gandhi
9	Nov 1-5	Gandhi, <i>Hind Swaraj</i>	Gandhi, <i>Hind Swaraj</i>
10	Nov 7-11	Gandhi, <i>Hind Swaraj</i>	Ambedkar, <i>Annihilation of Caste</i>
11	Nov 14-18	Ambedkar, <i>Annihilation of Caste</i>	Arundhati Roy, <i>The Doctor and the Saint</i>
12	Nov 21-15	Roy, <i>The Doctor and the Saint</i>	Bapsi Sidhwa, <i>Cracking India</i>
13	Nov 28-Dec 2	Sidhwa, <i>Cracking India</i>	Sidhwa, <i>Cracking India</i>
14	Dec 6-10	IK keynote?	Wrap up: S. Kaviraj, "Ideas of freedom in Modern India"

COMPLETION