

HI126 (Fall 2020)

Discovering, Inventing, and Making India: On the Historiography of the Subcontinent

Seminar Leader: Till Luge
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Class hours: Tue & Thu, 9:00-10:30 am
Office Hours: Thu, 11 am - 12 noon

Course Description

This course will offer a critical introduction to the major approaches to understanding Indian culture(s) and history. To this end, historiographical narratives of the subcontinent from the early modern period onwards will be examined within the contexts of their production. Critical examinations of European colonialist and romanticist historiography and Indian anticolonial and nationalist history writing will help us gain an understanding of history as continually produced and contested. "India" can be very different things at once: a cradle of otherness as imagined by romantic Western Indologists, a vast and populous land to be tamed by colonialist administrators, a lost culture bemoaned by Indian writers, or a nation to be (re)created by independence fighters and communalists.

Requirements

Academic Integrity

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.

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, two absences from twice-per-week courses or the equivalent (e.g. one absence from a once-per-week course) will not affect the participation grade or require documentation.

Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences, whether excused or unexcused.

The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FALL 2020: Students must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill.

Readings

All readings for this course will be made available online in Google Classroom. The below schedule and list of readings may be subject to change. It is the responsibility of the student to follow any such changes.

Assignments

a) Response Papers: You will write a short response on the assigned readings of the day in the first 10 minutes of each class. You can use the readings and your own (handwritten or printed) notes while writing the response paper. Other materials and computer use is not allowed.

b) Written Assignments: There will be two major written assignments in this course. Both will be essays on one of several proposed topics based on the readings and discussions in class. The length of the midterm assignment is expected to be 2000-2500 words. The length of the final assignment should be in the range of 3000-3500 words. You will be provided detailed guidelines and a grading rubric for the written assignments.

Assessment

Participation constitutes 25% of your grade. Your participation grade will be on the quantity and quality of your participation in class debates. That means you need to read the assigned readings in advance of the class and be ready to discuss them in class. If you have difficulty expressing yourself in a class setting, please let me know on the first week of the term. We will find methods that suit you for including you in class discussions.

You are expected to engage with your classmates in a respectful manner. Criticism is welcome, however offensive or demeaning language regarding any individuals or disadvantaged groups will not be tolerated. Please do not interrupt your classmates, and yield the floor after a reasonable amount of time during a discussion.

The regular response papers will constitute 15% of the grade.

The written midterm assignment will constitute 25% of your grade.

The written final assignment will constitute 35% of your grade.

Policy on Late Submission of Papers

Essays that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded up to one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion. Students are also entitled to make an appointment to discuss essay assignments and feedback during instructors' office hours.

Students receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work. Students are entitled to make an appointment with an instructor to discuss seminar participation, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

Grade Breakdown

Participation:	25%
Response papers:	15%

Midterm assignment: 25%
Final assignment: 35%

Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments
1	Tue, Sep 1	Ancient India	Ludden
	Thu, Sep 3	Medieval India	Ludden
2	Tue, Sep 8	'India' in European Philosophy	Inden & Hegel
	Thu, Sep 10	Critiquing Eurocentrism	Chandra
3	Tue, Sep 15	Early Modern India	Ludden
	Thu, Sep 17	Mughal India (I): British Historiography	Hardy
4	Tue, Sep 22	(II): Hindu Nationalist Historiography	Sarkar
	Thu, Sep 24	(III): Pakistani Nationalist Historiography	Chandra
5	Tue, Sep 29	(IV): Mughals and Rajputs, A More Recent View	Ziegler
	Thu, Oct 1	Islamization of India? (I)	Hardy
6	Tue, Oct 6	Islamization of India? (II)	Eaton
	Thu, Oct 8	Mughal Pluralism (I)	Khan
7	Tue, Oct 13	Mughal Pluralism (II)	Eaton
	Thu, Oct 15	Interreligious Encounter	Chandra
8		Fall break	Midterm deadline: Sat, Oct 24
9	Tue, Oct 27	Fringes of Society (I): Lower Class Uprisings	Smith
	Thu, Oct 29	Fringes of Society (II): Tribals	Singh
10	Tue, Nov 3	Fringes of Society (III): Warrior Ascetics	Pinch
	Thu, Nov 5	Besides and Beyond the Mughals (I)	Ludden
11	Tue, Nov 10	Besides and Beyond the Mughals (II)	Bayly
	Thu, Nov 12	Colonial Rule (I)	Ludden
12	Tue, Nov 17	Colonial Rule (II)	Bayly
	Thu, Nov 19	Colonial Rule (III)	Cohn
13	Tue, Nov 24	The Emergence of Hinduism (I)	King
	Thu, Nov 26	The Emergence of Hinduism (II)	Sharma
14	Tue, Dec 1	What is Caste?	Quigley

	Thu, Dec 3	The Politics of Language (I)	Rai
15	Tue, Dec 8	The Politics of Language (II)	Rai
	Thu, Dec 10	The Politics of Language (II)	Rai
16		Completion week	Final deadline: Fri, Dec 18

Scheduled class times will be available online under the relevant course heading:

<https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/>

Ancient India

- Ludden, David. *India and South Asia: A Short History*. 2002. Oxford: Oneworld, 2005.
→ “Inventing Ancient Civilization”, pp. 5-41.

Medieval India

- Ludden, David. *India and South Asia: A Short History*. 2002. Oxford: Oneworld, 2005.
→ “Changing Medieval Territories” (partial), pp. 42-63.

‘India’ in European Philosophy

- Inden, Ronald B. *Imagining India*. 1990. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000.
→ “Romantic India”, pp. 66-74.
- Inden, Ronald B. *Imagining India*. 1990. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000.
→ “Psychic Origins”, pp. 89-97.
- Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich. *The Philosophy of History*. Translated by John Sibree. Rev. ed. The World’s Great Classics. New York: The Colonial Press, 1899.
→ “The Oriental World”, pp. 111-115.

Critiquing Eurocentrism

- Chandra, Satish. “Decentring of History.” 1972. In *Historiography, Religion and State in Medieval India*, 13-31. New Delhi: Har-Anand Publications, 2010.

Early Modern India

- Ludden, David. *India and South Asia: A Short History*. 2002. Oxford: Oneworld, 2005.
→ “Changing Medieval Territories” (remainder), pp. 63-95.

Mughal India (I): British Historiography

- Hardy, Peter. “The Modern Study of Medieval Muslim India: Some Reflections on Trends and Methods.” In *Historians of Medieval India: Studies in Indo-Muslim Historical Writing*, 3–19. London: Luzac & Co., 1966.
- Hardy, Peter. “The Historians and the History of Medieval India: Some Conclusions.” In *Historians of Medieval India: Studies in Indo-Muslim Historical Writing*, 122–31. London: Luzac & Co., 1966.

Mughal India (II): Hindu Nationalist Historiography

- Sarkar, Jadunath. “The Islamic State Church in India.” In *History of Aurangzib: Mainly Based on Persian Sources. Vol. 3: Northern India, 1658-1681*, 248–279. 3rd rev. ed. Calcutta: M. C. Sarkar & Sons, 1928.

Mughal India (III): Pakistani Nationalist Historiography

- Chandra, Satish. "History Writing in Pakistan and the Two-Nation Theory." 1967. In *Historiography, Religion and State in Medieval India*, 43-56. New Delhi: Har-Anand Publications, 2010.

Mughal India (IV): Mughals and Rajputs, A More Recent View

- Ziegler, Norman P. "Some Notes on Rājput Loyalties during the Mughal Period." 1978. In *The Mughal State 1526-1750*, edited by Muzaffar Alam & Sanjay Subrahmanyam, 168–210. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Islamization of India? (I)

- Hardy, Peter. "Modern European and Muslim Explanations of Conversion to Islam in South Asia: A Preliminary Survey of the Literature." *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (New Series)* 109, no. 02 (1977): 177–206.

Islamization of India? (II)

- Eaton, Richard M. "Approaches to the Study of Conversion to Islam in India." In *Approaches to Islam in Religious Studies*, edited by Richard C. Martin, 106–23. Tucson, Ariz: University of Arizona Press, 1985.

Mughal Pluralism (I)

- Khan, Iqtidar Alam. "State in the Mughal India: Re-Examining the Myths of a Counter-Vision." *Social Scientist* 29, no. 1/2 (2001): 16–45.

Mughal Pluralism (II)

- Eaton, Richard M. "Temple Desecration and Indo-Muslim States." *Journal of Islamic Studies* 11, no. 3 (2000): 283–319.

Interreligious Encounter

- Chandra, Satish. "Interaction of Bhakti and Sufi Movements in South Asia." 1993. In *Historiography, Religion and State in Medieval India*, 132-152. New Delhi: Har-Anand Publications, 2010.

Fringes of Society (I): Lower Class Uprisings

- Smith, Wilfred Cantwell. "Lower-class Uprisings in the Mughal Empire." 1946. In *The Mughal State 1526-1750*, edited by Muzaffar Alam & Sanjay Subrahmanyam, 323–346. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Fringes of Society (II): Tribals

- Singh, Chetan. "Conformity and Conflict: Tribes in the 'Agrarian System' of Mughal India." 1988. In *The Mughal State 1526-1750*, edited by Muzaffar Alam & Sanjay Subrahmanyam, 421–448. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Fringes of Society (III): Warrior Ascetics

- Pinch, William R. "Soldier Monks and Militant Sadhus." 1996. In *Making India Hindu: Religion, Community, and the Politics of Democracy in India*, edited by David Ludden, 140-161. 2nd ed. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Besides and Beyond the Mughals (I)

- Ludden, David. *India and South Asia: A Short History*. 2002. Oxford: Oneworld, 2005.
→ “Early Modern Regions” (partial), pp. 108-138.

Besides and Beyond the Mughals (II)

- Bayly, C. A. “India in the eighteenth century. The formation of states and social groups.” In *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire*, 7-44. The New Cambridge History of India, II, 1. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

Colonial Rule (I)

- Ludden, David. *India and South Asia: A Short History*. 2002. Oxford: Oneworld, 2005.
→ “Making Modern Societies”, pp. 139-176.

Colonial Rule (II)

- Bayly, C. A. “Peasant and Brahmin: consolidating ‘traditional’ society.” In *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire*, 136-168. The New Cambridge History of India, II, 1. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

Colonial Rule (III)

- Cohn, Bernard S. “Law and the Colonial State in India.” In: *Colonialism and Its Forms of Knowledge: The British in India*, 57-75. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996.

The Emergence of Hinduism (I)

- King, Richard. “Orientalism and the Modern Myth of ‘Hinduism.’” *Numen* 46, no. 2 (1999): 146-85.

The Emergence of Hinduism (II)

- Sharma, Arvind. “What Is Hinduism?” In *The Study of Hinduism*, edited by Arvind Sharma, 1-19. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2003.

What is Caste?

- Quigley, Declan. “On the Relationship between Caste and Hinduism.” In *The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, edited by Gavin D. Flood, 495-508. Blackwell Companions to Religion. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub, 2003.

The Politics of Language (I)

- Rai, Alok. *Hindi Nationalism*. New Delhi: Orient Longman, 2001.
→ “Introduction”, “What’s in a Name?”, and “The MacDonnell Moment” (partial), pp. 1-31.

The Politics of Language (II)

- Rai, Alok. *Hindi Nationalism*. New Delhi: Orient Longman, 2001.
→ “The MacDonnell Moment” (remainder), and “Making a Difference”, pp. 31-64.

The Politics of Language (III)

- Rai, Alok. *Hindi Nationalism*. New Delhi: Orient Longman, 2001.
→ “Roads to the Present”, pp. 106-122.