HI126 (Fall 2020)
Discovering, Inventing, and Making India:
On the Historiography of the Subcontinent

Seminar Leader: Till Luge
Email: t.luge@berlin.bard.edu
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tue, Sep 1</td>
<td>Ancient India</td>
<td>Ludden</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu, Sep 3</td>
<td>Medieval India</td>
<td>Ludden</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Tue, Sep 8</td>
<td>'India' in European Philosophy</td>
<td>Inden &amp; Hegel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu, Sep 10</td>
<td>Critiquing Eurocentrism</td>
<td>Chandra</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tue, Sep 15</td>
<td>Early Modern India</td>
<td>Ludden</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu, Sep 17</td>
<td>Mughal India (I): British Historiography</td>
<td>Hardy</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tue, Sep 22</td>
<td>(II): Hindu Nationalist Historiography</td>
<td>Sarkar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu, Sep 24</td>
<td>(III): Pakistani Nationalist Historiography</td>
<td>Chandra</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Tue, Sep 29</td>
<td>(IV): Mughals and Rajputs, A More Recent View</td>
<td>Ziegler</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu, Oct 1</td>
<td>Islamization of India? (I)</td>
<td>Hardy</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Tue, Oct 6</td>
<td>Islamization of India? (II)</td>
<td>Eaton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu, Oct 8</td>
<td>Mughal Pluralism (I)</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Tue, Oct 13</td>
<td>Mughal Pluralism (II)</td>
<td>Eaton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu, Oct 15</td>
<td>Interreligious Encounter</td>
<td>Chandra</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>Fall break</td>
<td>Midterm deadline: Sat, Oct 24</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Tue, Oct 27</td>
<td>Fringes of Society (I): Lower Class Uprisings</td>
<td>Smith</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu, Oct 29</td>
<td>Fringes of Society (II): Tribals</td>
<td>Singh</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Tue, Nov 3</td>
<td>Fringes of Society (III): Warrior Ascetics</td>
<td>Pinch</td>
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<td>Thu, Nov 5</td>
<td>Besides and Beyond the Mughals (I)</td>
<td>Ludden</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Tue, Nov 10</td>
<td>Besides and Beyond the Mughals (II)</td>
<td>Bayly</td>
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<td>Thu, Nov 12</td>
<td>Colonial Rule (I)</td>
<td>Ludden</td>
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<td>Tue, Nov 17</td>
<td>Colonial Rule (II)</td>
<td>Bayly</td>
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<td>Thu, Nov 19</td>
<td>Colonial Rule (III)</td>
<td>Cohn</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Tue, Nov 24</td>
<td>The Emergence of Hinduism (I)</td>
<td>King</td>
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<td>Thu, Nov 26</td>
<td>The Emergence of Hinduism (II)</td>
<td>Sharma</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Tue, Dec 1</td>
<td>What is Caste?</td>
<td>Quigley</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>Thu, Dec 3</td>
<td>The Politics of Language (I)</td>
<td>Rai</td>
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<td>Tue, Dec 8</td>
<td>The Politics of Language (II)</td>
<td>Rai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, Dec 10</td>
<td>The Politics of Language (II)</td>
<td>Rai</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Completion week</td>
<td>Final deadline: Fri, Dec 18</td>
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Scheduled class times will be available online under the relevant course heading: [https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/](https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/)

**Ancient India**

**Medieval India**

**‘India’ in European Philosophy**

**Critiquing Eurocentrism**

**Early Modern India**

**Mughal India (I): British Historiography**

**Mughal India (II): Hindu Nationalist Historiography**
Mughal India (III): Pakistani Nationalist Historiography

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

Islamization of India? (I)

Islamization of India? (II)

Mughal Pluralism (I)

Mughal Pluralism (II)

Interreligious Encounter

Fringes of Society (I): Lower Class Uprisings

Fringes of Society (II): Tribals

Fringes of Society (III): Warrior Ascetics
Besides and Beyond the Mughals (I)

Besides and Beyond the Mughals (II)

Colonial Rule (I)
  → “Making Modern Societies”, pp. 139-176.

Colonial Rule (II)

Colonial Rule (III)

The Emergence of Hinduism (I)

The Emergence of Hinduism (II)

What is Caste?

The Politics of Language (I)

The Politics of Language (II)
  → “The MacDonnell Moment” (remainder), and “Making a Difference”, pp. 31-64.

The Politics of Language (III)