

Spring 2019
ASIA 3350 / RS 3350 / ANTH 4370 / SOCI 3341
INDIA: CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Place: Physical Science Building 314
Time: Tue and Thu, 12.00 to 1.20 p.m.

Instructor: Pratyusha Basu
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The sub-continent of India, alternatively hailed as an emerging world power and commiserated over as a country that continues to remain less developed, is an apt representation of the complicated ways in which globalization is unfolding across the world. Surrounded by the Himalayan mountain ranges in the north which feed India's major rivers, the majority of the country's population depends on small-scale agriculture, while southern India's metropolises are beacons of information technology-led urban growth. The diversity of India's cultural heritage, including its mix of religions and languages, juxtaposed with the use of English in education and government, add further to its striking urban-rural contrasts. This course will examine diverse strands of India's culture and society to highlight both the unique identity of India as well as its links to global flows. In the process, its aim is to understand how the study of India as regional entity improves our ability to analyze the complex construction of the contemporary world.

The objectives of this course are to:

- understand the varied dimensions of India's culture and society,
- enhance a critical approach that is attentive to inequalities and diversities,
- situate India within contemporary global flows, and
- improve written and oral communication skills through assignments and class discussions.
- improve research skills through conduct of library research and writing a research paper.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance, In-class and Take-home Assignments: 20%

In-class and take-home assignments will include answering short quizzes and short essays based on class readings, reporting the content of group discussions, and leading discussions on selected readings.

Essays (4): 35%

Essay questions will be provided via Blackboard and essays have to be addressed based on both class readings and library searches conducted by students. Each essay should be around 2 double-spaced pages (at least 500 words in length).

Exams (2): 20%

Each exam will consist of short answer and short essay questions drawn from the textbook and class discussions. Details will be discussed in exam review sessions.

Final Essay: 25% (due in Final Exams week)

The question for the final essay will be provided by instructor. Length of final essay should be at least 2000 words (around 8 double-spaced pages).

Grading scale (based on weighted total percentage points)

A = 90% plus

B = 80-89.9%

C = 70-79.9%

D = 60-69.9%

F = 59.9% and below

READINGS

Required Textbooks

Gilbert, Marc Jason. 2017. **South Asia in World History**. Oxford University Press.

Wolpert, Stanley. 2009, 4th edition. **India**. University of California Press.

Mittal, Sushil and Thursby, Gene. eds. 2006. **Religions of South Asia: An Introduction**. Routledge.

Additional readings will be required and information on these will be provided via Blackboard.

Please remain attentive to any changes in required readings and readings / assignments schedule on Blackboard.

SCHEDULE OF COURSE TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Jan 22	introduction
Jan 24	Wolpert, Ch 1 (environment)
Jan 29	Gilbert, Ch 2 (Vedic age)
Jan 31	Gilbert, Ch 3 (classical age)
Feb 5	Wolpert, Ch 3 (religion and philosophy)
Feb 7	<i>Viswanathan, cultural encounters</i>
Feb 12	<i>readings on Hinduism</i>
Feb 14	<i>readings on Hinduism</i>
Feb 19	<i>readings on Hinduism</i>
Feb 21	<i>no class</i>

Essay 1 due: Feb 25

Feb 26	Gilbert, Ch 4 (Islamic)
Feb 28	Gilbert, Ch 5 (Mughal)
Mar 5	<i>readings on non-Hindu religious communities</i>
Mar 7	<i>readings on non-Hindu religious communities</i>
Mar 12	Exam 1
Mar 14	
Mar 19	<i>Spring Break</i>
Mar 21	<i>Spring Break</i>

Essay 2 due: Mar 25

Mar 26	Gilbert, Ch 6 (British rule)
Mar 28	Gilbert, Ch 7 (independence movement)
Apr 2	<i>readings on global India</i>
Apr 4	<i>readings on global India</i>
Apr 9	Wolpert, Ch 4 (society)

Apr 11 Wolpert, Ch 5 (arts and sciences)

Essay 3 due: Apr 15

Apr 16 *readings on cross-cultural encounters*

Apr 18 *readings on cross-cultural encounters*

Apr 23 *readings on gender issues*

Apr 25 *readings on gender issues*

Essay 4 due: May 1

Apr 30 *capitalizing Asian Studies / textbook controversy*

May 2

May 7 Exam 2

May 9

Supplementary Course Information

Class Environment: It is important to recognize that the classroom is an environment that requires respect for all participants. Therefore, students are expected to conduct themselves in a considerate manner. All participants in the class must respect the classroom environment by being on time, turning off cellphones, earphones, and headphones, avoiding extraneous talking and chatting, refraining from reading non-class material, and by not eating during class time.

Help with Writing: The University Writing Center (Library Building, Room 227, Tel. 747-5112) provides walk-in assistance with writing to all UTEP students at no cost (including walk-in assistance and on-line assistance with writing and citations). Check the website – <http://uwc.utep.edu/index.php/hours-location> – for a Spring 2016 schedule and more information.

Special Facilities: Individuals who have any disability, either permanent or temporary, which might affect their ability to perform in this class, must inform the instructor at the start of the semester. Adaptations of methods, materials, or testing may be made as required for equitable participation.

Incomplete Grades: Incomplete grades (I) will not be given in the course except under exceptional circumstances, based on written documentation, and at the discretion of the instructor.

Religious Preference Absence: Students who anticipate being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious activity must provide written notice of the dates to the instructor by the second week of the semester.

Selling Class Notes and Audio / Video Recordings: It is not permitted to sell notes and audio /video recordings from this class. If you need audio and video recordings of the class for personal study, please inform the instructor and obtain permission before doing so.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information: it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/> for further information.