

Spring 2020
INDIA: CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Asian Studies ASIA 3350, CRN 28108
Religious Studies RS 3350, CRN 28885
Women's and Gender Studies WS 3390, CRN 26523
Anthropology ANTH 4370, CRN 22562
Sociology SOCI 3341, CRN 22360

Place: Cotton Memorial Building 207
Time: Tue and Thu, 12.00 to 1.20 p.m.

Instructor: Pratyusha Basu
Associate Professor of Geography
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
and Director, Asian Studies Program

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Office Hours: Wed, 3.00 to 5.00 p.m., or by appointment.

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 (2): 25%

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 4 double-spaced pages (at least 1000 words in length).

Take-home Exams (2): 30%

Each exam will consist of short essay questions drawn from the textbook and class discussions. Details will be provided in class.

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

Textbook

Trautmann, Thomas R. 2015, 2nd edition. **India: Brief History of a Civilization**. Oxford University Press. [ISBN: Paperback, 9780190202491]

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 21	introduction
Jan 23	introducing India: physical features (textbook)
Jan 28	introducing India: social and cultural features (textbook)
Jan 30	Indus Valley
Feb 4	Vedic Age
Feb 6	Early Kingdoms
Feb 11	Hinduism and Buddhism
Feb 13	Hinduism and Buddhism
Feb 18	Islam
Feb 20	Sultanate Period
Feb 25	Mughal
Feb 27	Mughal
Mar 3	British colonialism
Mar 5	Independence movement
Mar 10	Exam 1
Mar 12	
<i>Mar 17</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
<i>Mar 19</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
Mar 24	Gender issues
Mar 26	Gender issues
Mar 31	Gender issues
Apr 2	Gender issues
Apr 7	Caste identities
Apr 9	Caste identities
Apr 14	Caste identities

Apr 16	Popular culture
Apr 21	Popular culture
Apr 23	Popular culture
Apr 28	Globalization
Apr 30	Globalization
May 5	Exam 2
May 7	
May 11	Final Essay

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.