Literature and Politics of South Asia
English 289 and Political Science 289

Wellesley College
Fall 2002

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Class hours: Tue and Fri 1:30-2:40
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Instructor: Christopher Candland
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DESCRIPTION

Much of the literature of South Asia is embedded in political struggle; much of the politics of South Asia is fought over language and representation. This course introduces contemporary South Asia through political and literary analysis organized around three clusters: Religious Nationalism and Violence; Gender, Family, and Society; and Literature, Politics, and Social Change. The course uses political and historical writing, social theory, literature, and film. In addition to using literature and political studies to illuminate and complement each other, the course raises awareness of how different disciplines analyze and evaluate material.

REQUIREMENTS

Students are to read assignments before the class in which they are discussed, prepare for participation in discussion, and attend class. In addition, attendance at three evening video showings is required. Other assignments are two response essays (no more than 500 words), two short papers (no more than 1,000 words), and one final paper (no more than 3,000 words). The response papers discuss the reading for one class; they are graded on a pass/fail basis. There will be a choice of questions on which to write the short papers. The final paper is to be based on an approved one-page abstract and preliminary bibliography.

DEADLINES

first short paper 19 Feb
second short paper 8 Apr
first response essay 12 Mar
second response essay 7 May
final paper 20 May 4:00 pm
EXTENSIONS

Extensions are given only if your class dean or doctor informs one of the instructors of an emergency or illness. Unexcused later papers will be penalized.

MATERIALS

All assigned reading, except the three books directly below, is contained in two course readers. These are available in the Political Science Department for US$10 ($5 each). The two volumes are also on reserve at the Knapp Library:

Manju Kapur, *Difficult Daughters* (Faber and Faber 1999)
Kushwant Singh, *Train to Pakistan* (Grove Press 1990 (1956))

Also at the bookstore are the following books, which you may want to purchase. The readings from these books are in the course reader.

Urvashi Butalia, *The Other Side of Silence* (New Direction 2000)
Ian Jack, *India!* (Granta Books 1997)
Josiane Racine and Jean-Luc Racine, *Viramma: Life of an Untouchable* (Verso 1997)
<table>
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<th>Class Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jan 29</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Karl Marx, “British Rule in India” and “The Future Results of British Rule in India” (Marx and Engels (1853) 1972: 35-41, 81-87)</td>
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<th>Religious Nationalism and Violence</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Feb 1</strong> British India 1835-1947</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Babington Macaulay, “Minute on Indian Education” (Macaulay (1835) 1967: 719-730)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angus Maddison, “The Social Origins and Ideology of the Nationalist Movement” (Maddison 1971: 71-75)</td>
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<td><strong>Feb 5</strong> Autobiography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homer Jack, “Chronology” (of Gandhi’s life) (Jack 1956: 511-517)</td>
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<td>Mohandas Gandhi, selections from <em>My Experiments with Truth</em> (Gandhi (1927) 1948: 3-8, 11-37, 252-260, 386-409)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jawaharlal Nehru, selections from <em>Autobiography</em> (Nehru (1941) 1942: 16-73)</td>
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<tr>
<td>**Feb 5 (7pm) Video: <em>Eqbal Ahmad and the Partitioning of India</em> (52 min)</td>
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<td><strong>Feb 8</strong> Nationalist Debates on the Minority Question</td>
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<td>Jawaharlal Nehru, selection from <em>The Discovery of India</em> (Nehru 1946: 380-294)</td>
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<td>Mohammad Ali Jinnah, selections from <em>Quaid-e-Azam Jinnah’s Correspondence</em> (with Gandhi and Nehru) (Pirzada 1981: 88-90, 194-195, 197, 244)</td>
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<td>Thomas Hansen, “Hindutva and the ‘Lack’ in the Hindus” (Hansen 1999: 77-80)</td>
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<td>Sayyid Abdul Ala Maududi, “Syed Abu’l-A’la Maudoodi” (De Bary 1958, 853-864)</td>
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<th>Partition Stories</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saadat Hasan Manto, “Toba Tek Singh” and “The Dog of Titwal” (Manto 1987: 11-18, 19-24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kushwant Singh, <em>Train to Pakistan</em> (Singh 1955: entire)</td>
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Feb 15       Partition Stories (continued)

Urvashi Butalia, “Maya Rani” and “Memory” (Butalia 1998: 251-258, 261-278)

Feb 19       No class (Mon schedule)

**note:** first paper due

Feb 22       Fiction from History

Salaman Rushdie, from *Midnight’s Children* (Rushdie 1980: 1-88)

Feb 26       Fiction from History (continued)


Mar 1        Kashmir


Mar 5        Visit by Pankaj Mishra

Discussion of Kashmir as Legacy of Partition

Mar 6 (7pm)  Pankaj Mishra, Lecture on India-Pakistan Conflict, Library Lecture Room

**GENDER, FAMILY, AND SOCIETY**

Mar 8        Gender and Women’s Social Opportunity in South Asia


Amartya Sen, “Women’s Agency and Social Change” (Sen 2001: 189-203)

Aparna Basu, “Women’s Education in India” (Ray and Basu 1999: 135-157)
Mar 12  Gender, Inequality, and Women’s Agency in Short Stories by Women

Ambai (C.S. Lakshmi), “Gifts” (Chauduri 2001: 297-305)
M.K. Indira, “Phaniyamma” (Tharu and Lalita 1990: 138-144)

Razia Sajja Zaher, “Neech” (Tharu and Lalita 1990: 144-153)
Mahasweta Devi, “The Hunt” (Devi 1995: ix-17)
Ketu Katrak, “Indian Nationalism, Gandhian 'Satyagraha,' and Representation of Female Sexuality” (Parker and Russo 1992: 395-406)

Mar 12 (7pm) Videos: Trial by Fire (60 min) and Fire (104 min)

Mar 15  Pseudo-Secularism and the Muslim Women’s Bill

Zoya Hasan, “Muslim Women and the Debate on Legal Reforms” (Ray and Basu 1999: 120-134)
Urvashi Butalia, “Muslims and Hindus, Men and Women” (Butalia 1995: 58-81)

Mar 16-24  Spring break

Mar 26  Gender, Motherhood, and Protest

Sadaat Hassan Manto “The Black Salwar” and “Insult” (Flemming 1985: 206-219, 242-260)
Caitrin Lynch, “From Resistance to Sexuality” (Lynch 2001: 1-41)
Malathi de Alwis “Motherhood as a Space of Protest” (Jeffery and Basu 1998: 185-201)

Mar 29  Development and Women’s Movements and Visit by Raka Ray

Discussion of Gender and Domestic Labor in India

Radha Kumar, “From Chipko to Sati: The Contemporary Indian Women’s Movement” (Basu 1995: 8-86)
Raka Ray, “Masculinity, Femininity, and Servitude: Domestic Workers in Calcutta in the Late Twentieth Century” (Ray 2000: 1-18)

Apr 2  Sexuality and Dependence

Manju Kapur, Difficult Daughters (Kapur 1999: 1-177)

Apr 5  Sexuality and Dependence (continued)

Manju Kapur, Difficult Daughters, (Kapur 1999: 178-280)

Apr 8

note: second paper due
POLITICS, WRITING, AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Apr 9  Nostalgia and Rural Life
Rabindranath Tagore, “The Postmaster” (Chaudhuri 2001: 26-34)
Premchand, “The Road to Salvation,” “A Catastrophe,” and “Neyur” (Rubin 1969: 21-32; 48-52; 60-79)

April 9 (7pm) Videos: Satyajit Ray, Two Daughters (“The Postman” and “Samapti”) (114 min)

Apr 12  Social Change and Rural Life
Paul Brass, “Politics and Agricultural Change” (Brass 1994: 320-335)

Apr 16  Dalit Stories
Josiane Racine and Jean-Luc Racine, selections from Viramma: Life of an Untouchable, (Racine and Racine 1997: 6-49)
Josiane Racine and Jean-Luc Racine, “Routes to Emancipation” (Racine and Racine 1997: 306-312)
Sankarshan Thakur, “Charvaha in a Chopper” (Thakur 2000: 72-98)
Premchand, “The Shroud” and “Deliverance” (Rubin 1969: 186-194, 195-203)

Apr 23  Visit by Urvashi Butalia
Discussion of Making History from Transcripts

Apr 26  The Bombay Underworld
Jeremy Seabrook, “The Unsustainable City” (Seabrook 1993: 88-90)
Vikram Chandra, “The Siege of Kailashpada” (Chaudhuri 2001: 564-581)
Suketu Mehta, “Mumbai” (Mehta 1997: 96-126)
Christopher de Bellaigue, “Bombay at War” (Silvers and Epstein 2001: 35-52)

Apr 30  Interpretation and Evidence
Michael Ondaatje, Anil’s Ghost (Ondaatje 2001: 5-205)
May 3       Artists and Investigators


May 7       Conclusions

**note**: proposal and preliminary bibliography for final paper due.

May 20      Final papers due at 4:00pm
Sources

Listed here are full citations to the course reading as well as material that may be useful for final paper projects.

Books and articles


Videos


29 Jan 2002