South Asia contains today over 1.7 billion people, over one fifth of humanity. For some 5,000 years South Asia has stood as one of the centers of world civilization. Historically known in the West for the richness of its culture and economy, South Asia has undergone the transforming effects of colonialism and globalization. From the mid-18th century until 1947, South Asia remained a central part of the British Empire. As South Asia emerged from the colonial period, it has produced the “new nations” of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh in the context of the post-colonial world system. Each of these nations has dealt in distinct ways with issues of identity, the distribution of socio-economic and political power, and development. Two of these new nations have exploded nuclear devices and have fought several wars. By studying the internal developments of the civilizations of South Asia, and their interactions with the West, from the time of British conquest to the present, we will come to understand much about the people of South Asia and also the colonial and post-colonial processes.

Following a general chronological sequence, this course begins with an exploration of the social, economic, and political conditions of South Asia at the beginning of the 18th century. We then analyze India within the context of British imperialism, examining the changes in Indian society, environment, economics, and culture that occurred under British rule. We study developments within Indian and British-Indian society of religion, gender, class, and “untouchability” during the colonial period. The course then surveys the Indian nationalist movement and the coming of the India-Pakistan Partition of 1947. We conclude with an assessment of the current condition of present-day South Asia in 2015.

Reading of the required materials, attendance at all classes, taking three in-class essay examinations, and writing one brief (3-5 page) paper are mandatory. There are six paper options available; each person must choose one of these options. Each day late in the paper reduces its grade by 3 points. Scores: A+ 100-97; A 96-93; A- 92-90; B+ 89-87; B 86-83; B- 82-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-73; C- 72-70; D 65-69, F below 65.

Required texts to be purchased:
Barbara and Thomas Metcalf, *Concise History of India*
Jawaharlal Nehru, *Discovery of India*
Prakash Lal Tandon, *Punjabi Century*

NOTE: Additional required readings are available from BLACKBOARD.
ALWAYS BRING THE RELEVANT READINGS WITH YOU TO CLASS

Paper Requirements: Select any one of the following topics, or develop a topic in consultation with Mr. Fisher. Write a 3-5 page paper on that topic, using the full historical methodology (including citation notes, bibliography, and proper spelling and grammar). Each paper is due on a specified date; last possible due date for topics developed individually and approved by Mr. Fisher is April 28 at 9:30 AM. If you would like Mr. Fisher to read a draft of your paper, it must be in his hands at least one week in advance of the due date.

PLEASE CONSULT WITH MR. FISHER BEFORE WRITING YOUR PAPER

Paper Option One (due March 3 at 9:30 AM): Analysis of any one other source (i.e., not a source from the required readings) on British annexations from Fisher, *Politics of the*
British Annexation (copies available in Mudd stacks DS463.P65 1993 or to borrow from Mr. Fisher).

Paper Option Two (due March 5 at 9:30 AM): Analysis of a British “reform” of Indian society of positions (Indian and British) to that “reform.” Suggestions: the issues of sati, or education, or public health.

Paper Option Three (due March 31 at 9:30 AM): Analysis of an aspect of village or urban life in South Asia. Suggestion: look at the religious practice, housing patterns, economy, or some other aspect of village or urban life.

Paper Option Four (due April 21 at 9:30 AM): Analysis of an political or social leader in South Asia. Suggestion: select and analyze one aspect of a leader or movement.

Paper Option Five (due April 28 at 9:30 AM): Analysis of an aspect of marriage in South Asia. Suggestion: select one of the required or optional readings and analyze how a marriage works (or does not work).

Paper Option Six (due April 30 at 9:30 AM): Analysis of India’s reservation policy. Suggestion: analyze the rhetoric and/or logic of one of the required or recommended readings on reservations.

Accommodation: If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities.

Honor Code: The Honor Code applies to all assignments in this course. This means that any student found cheating, plagiarizing, turning in another person’s work as his/her own or otherwise violating the instructor’s explicit or implicit instructions will be subject to a hearing before the Student Honor Committee. To learn more about the Code, see the Rules and Regulations Section VI A and B in Fussers or the Student Handbook. (language courtesy of Susan Colley and the Student Honor Code Committee).

Class Meetings

Part 1: Physical, Social, and Political Environments of South Asia (to 1757)

2/3 Introduction: Where is South Asia (at)?
Recommended, browse this major reference work: Schwartzberg, Historical Atlas (Ref G 2261.S1H5 1992, Atlas section, Mudd Academic Commons, or older edition in main stacks, super oversize G2261.S1H5 1978).
Thought question: What are the various implications of different definitions of our topic?

2/5 South Asian society in context
Required: BLACKBOARD: (MSARead1.doc) Manu (Part 1) and Sura “Iron” from the Quran (10 pages) (BRING THESE READINGS TO CLASS)
Thought question: What do religious prescriptions/proscriptions have to do with everyday society?

2/10 South Asian Society and Islamic Empire (1700-1757)
History 163, p.3

Required: Nehru, *Discovery of India*, Chapter Four “The Discovery of India” and Chapter Six “New Problems” (143 pages)
and required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, read both Prefaces plus Chapter 1
Thought question: What are the respective ideological positions of the Metcalfs and Nehru?

**Part 2: South Asia and British Colonialism (1757-1857)**

2/12 The Transition from Indian to British Rule: the English East India Company, the Mughals, and regional powers: 1757-1857
Required: BLACKBOARD: (MSAReading2.doc) five selections on annexation (17 pages)
and required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 2
Consider: Paper Topic Option One (due March 3 at 9:30 AM): Analysis any other one of the primary sources in Fisher, *Politics of the British Annexation* (use library copy or borrow one from Mr. Fisher)
Thought question: To what extent can we speak of “the Indians” or “the British” in this period?

2/17 The Structure of East India Company Rule and South Asian Society to 1857
required: Nehru, *Discovery of India*, first part of Chapter Seven “The Last Phase (1)” [read through section “Contradictions of British Rule”] (39 pages)
and required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 3.
Thought question: How is British imperialism different from Mughal imperialism?

2/19 British and Indian debates about social “reform”
Required: BLACKBOARD: (MSAReading3.doc) eight primary sources about women (14 pages)
Consider Paper Topic Option Two: (due March 5 at 9:30 AM) Analysis of a British “reform” and Indian and British positions on that “reform.
Thought question: Should sati have been stopped? If so, by whom?

2/24 The issues of 1857
Required: BLACKBOARD: (MSAReading4.doc) Duff, “Indian Hostility” (3 pages):
and required: Nehru, *Discovery of India*, second part of Chapter Seven “The Last Phase (1)” [read “Great Revolt” through “Techniques of British Rule”]
and required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 4.
Thought question: What was the significance of 1857?

2/25 (Wednesday) Review Session, 7:00-8:00 PM
2/26 Examination I (in class)

**Part 3: South Asia and the British Raj (1858-1947)**

3/3 The British Raj: The Indian Civil Service
required: BLACKBOARD: (MSAReading5.doc) Woodruff, Allen. (28 pages)
Thought question: Why did Britons go to India? Paper Option One due at 9:30 AM.
3/5 The British Raj: A Punjabi Perspective
Thought question: Why does Tandon write about Punjab in this way?
Paper Option Two due at 9:30 AM.

3/10 Urban Life under the British Raj
Required: Tandon, *Punjabi Century*, pp. 39-123
Thought question: How realistic is Tandon’s portrayal of Punjabi life?
Consider Paper Topic Option Three (due March 31 at 9:30 AM): Analysis of an aspect of village or urban life in South Asia.

3/12 The Effects of the British Raj
Thought question: How did urban elites like Tandon and Nehru regard the British?

3/14 (Saturday) Indian and Chinese Film symposium; details TBA

3/17 Social and Political Developments
Required: BLACKBOARD: Jensenius, “Mired in Reservations” [Jensenius.pdf] (21pp.)
and required Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapters 5 and 6.
Thought question: What were the costs and/or benefits of British rule over India?

3/19 Nationalisms
Required: BLACKBOARD: (MSAReading6.doc) Amin, “Gandhi as Mahatma” (36 pages)
and/or (MSAReading7.doc) Visweswaran, “Small Speeches, Subaltern Gender” (31 pages)
and required: Nehru, *Discovery of India*, Chapter Eight, “The Last Phase (2).” (50 pages)
Thought question: What does “nationalism” mean?

Spring Break

3/31 Different models of nation to Partition
Required: BLACKBOARD: (MSAReading8.doc) models of the nation (15 pages)
and required: Nehru, Discovery of India, Chapter Nine “The Last Phase (3)”
Thought question: How should formal colonialism have ended?
Paper Option Three due at 9:30 AM.

4/1 (Wednesday) Review Session, 7:00-8:00 PM

4/2 Examination II (in class)


4/7-9 Independent India (1947-2015)
Required: Nehru, *Discovery of India*, Chapter Ten, “Ahmadnagar Fort Again” (101 pages)
and required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapters 8, 9.
Thought questions: Assess Nehru’s legacy, especially what does “secularism” mean for India? Consider Paper Topic Option Four (due April 21 at 9:30 AM): Analysis of any political or social leader in South Asia.

4/14 Gender Relations
And required: BLACKBOARD: (MSARreading9.doc and Sharanpani_Mukta.pdf) (23 pages)
Thought question: Should marriages be “arranged”? Why or why not; by and for whom?

4/16 Reservations and Vote Banks
required: BLACKBOARD: (MSARreading10.doc) (21 pages)
Consider Paper Topic Option Six (due April 30 at 9:30 AM): Analysis of India’s reservation policy.
Thought question: Should there be “quotas” for entry into college, employment, and/or promotion? If so, what should they be based on?

4/21 Self-Employed Women’s Association
required: BLACKBOARD: (MSARreading11.doc) (9 pages)
Thought question: Why and how does SEWA work?
Paper Option Four due at 9:30AM

required: BLACKBOARD: (MSARreading12.doc) (12 pages)
Thought question: What should Islam mean for Pakistan?
Paper Option Five due at 9:30AM on April 28.

required: BLACKBOARD: Yunus_Muhammad.pdf (17pages) and/or Mannan_Manzurul.pdf (15 pages)
Thought question: How is Bangladesh different from Pakistan or India?
Paper Option Six due at 9:30AM on April 30.

5/7 South Asia in the 21st century, plus review session in class

Final Examination (as scheduled by Registrar).