History 163: Modern South Asia: From British Imperialism to the Present
Spring 2012 - Mr. Fisher, Rice 314, x58524, michael.fisher@oberlin.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-11:50, Wednesday 10:00-11:50 and by appointment
Class Meets: Tuesday, Thursday 9:00-10:15 with 4th hour discussion session 10:15-10:50.
If you sign up for a 4th credit hour, you must participate in both discussion groups each week. If you sign up for 3 credit hours, you are encouraged to participate in these discussion groups.

South Asia contains today over 1.6 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.

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. For those registered for 3 credits, the grade is 25% each for each exam and the paper. Those registered for the 4th credit hour receive 3 points for attendance at each discussion session (plus an extra point for strong contribution to the discussion); grades are based on 20% each for each exam, the paper, and the discussion. 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 26 at 9:00 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 6 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of any 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 or to borrow from Mr. Fisher).

Paper **Option Two** (due March 13 at 9:00 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 April 5 at 9:00 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 May 1 at 9:00 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 May 10 at 9:00 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 May 10 at 9:00 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)**

2/7 Introduction: Where is South Asia (at)?

discussion: What are the various implications of different definitions of our topic?

2/9 South Asian society in context
required (10 pages): BLACKBOARD: (MSAReading1.doc) Manu (Part 1) and Sura "Iron" from the Quran (BRING THESE READINGS TO CLASS)
discussion: What do religious prescriptions/proscriptions have to do with everyday society?
2/14 South Asian Society and Islamic Empire (1700-1757)
Required (143 pages): Nehru, *Discovery of India*, Chapter Four "The Discovery of India" and Chapter Six "New Problems" and Metcalfs, *Concise History*, read both Prefaces plus Chapter 1
discussion: What are the respective ideological positions of the Metcalfs and Nehru?

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

2/16 The Transition from Indian to British Rule: the English East India Company, the Mughals, and regional powers: 1757-1857
required (17 pages): BLACKBOARD: (MSAReading2.doc) five selections on annexation and Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 2
Consider: Paper Topic Option One (due March 6 at 9:00 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)
discussion: To what extent can we speak of "the Indians" or "the British" in this period?

2/21 The Structure of East India Company Rule and South Asian Society to 1857
required (39 pages): Nehru, *Discovery of India*, first part of Chapter Seven "The Last Phase (1)"
[read through section “Contradictions of British Rule”]
and Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 3.
discussion: How is British imperialism different from Mughal imperialism?

2/23 British and Indian debates about social "reform"
required (14 pages): BLACKBOARD: (MSAReading3.doc) eight primary sources about women and Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 4.
Consider Paper Topic Option Two: (due March 13 at 9:00 AM) Analysis of a British "reform" and Indian and British positions on that "reform."
discussion: Should sati have been stopped? If so, by whom?

2/28 The issues of 1857
required (3 pages): BLACKBOARD: (MSAReading4.doc) Duff, "Indian Hostility" and Nehru, *Discovery of India*, second part of Chapter Seven "The Last Phase (1)" [read "Great Revolt" through "Techniques of British Rule"]
and Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 4.
discussion: What was the significance of 1857?

2/29 (Wednesday) Review Session, 7:00-8:00 PM
3/1 Examination I (in class)
*Part 3: South Asia and the British Raj (1858-1947)*
3/6 The British Raj: The Indian Civil Service
discussion: Why did Britons go to India?
Paper Option One due at 9:00 AM.
3/8 The British Raj: A Punjabi Perspective  
discussion: Why does Tandon write about Punjab in this way?

3/13 Urban Life under the British Raj  
required (84 pages): Tandon, *Punjabi Century*, pp. 39-123  
discussion: How realistic is Tandon's portrayal of Punjabi life?  
Paper Option Two due at 9:00 AM.  
Consider Paper Topic Option Three (due April 5 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of an aspect of village or urban life in South Asia.

3/15 The Effects of the British Raj  
discussion: How did urban elites like Tandon and Nehru regard the British?

3/20-22 no class meetings (made up on 2/29 and 4/13)  

**Spring Break**

4/3 Social and Political Developments  
Required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapters 5 and 6.  
discussion: What were the costs and/or benefits of British rule over India?

4/5 Nationalisms  
Required (50 pages): Nehru, *Discovery of India*, Chapter Eight, “The Last Phase (2).”  
and BLACKBOARD: (MSAReading6.doc) Amin, "Gandhi as Mahatma" (36 pages) **and/or**  
(MSAReading7.doc) Visweswaran, "Small Speeches, Subaltern Gender" (31 pages)  
discussion: What does “nationalism” mean?  
Paper Option Three due at 9:00 AM.

4/10 Different models of nation to Partition  
Required (15 pages): BLACKBOARD: (MSAReading8.doc) models of the nation and Nehru, *Discovery of India*, Chapter Nine “The Last Phase (3)”  
and Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 7.  
discussion: How should formal colonialism have ended?

4/11 (Wednesday) Review Session, 7:00-8:00 PM

4/12 Examination II (in class)

**Part 4: Independent South Asia (1947-2012)**

4/17-19 Independent India (1947-2012)  
required (101 pages): Nehru, *Discovery of India*, Chapter Ten, "Ahmadnagar Fort Again"  
and Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapters 8, 9, and Epilogue.  
discussion questions: (for 4/17) Assess Nehru's legacy. (for 4/19) What does "secularism" mean for India?
Consider Paper Topic Option Four (due May 1 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of any political or social leader in South Asia.

4/24 Gender Relations
required: (23 pages) BLACKBOARD: (MSAResulting9.doc and Sharangpani_Mukta.pdf)
Consider Paper Topic Option Five (due May 10 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of an aspect of marriage in South Asia.
discussion: Should marriages be "arranged"? Why or why not; by and for whom?

4/26 Reservations and Vote Banks
required: (21 pages) BLACKBOARD: (MSAResulting10.doc)
Consider Paper Topic Option Six (due May 10 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of India's reservation policy.
discussion: Should there be "quotas" for entry into college, employment, and/or promotion? If so, what should they be based on?

5/1 Self-Employed Women's Association
required: (9 pages) BLACKBOARD: (MSAResulting11.doc)
discussion: Why does SEWA work?
Paper Option Four due at 9:00AM

5/3-8 Independent Pakistan (1947-2012)
required: (12 pages) BLACKBOARD: (MSAResulting12.doc)
discussion: What should Islam mean for Pakistan?

5/10 Independent Bangladesh (1971-2012)
required: (17 pages) BLACKBOARD: Yunus_Muhammad.pdf (17pages) and/or Mannan_Manzurul.pdf (15 pages)
discussion: How is Bangladesh different from Pakistan or India?
Paper Options Five and Six due at 9:00AM.

5/14 (Monday) 11:00-noon review session

5/17 (Thursday 2:00-4:00) Final Examination (as scheduled by Registrar).