Overview

Through this seminar, we will examine the interactions among religion, politics, and ethnicity in the historical contexts of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. We will also consider issues of gender and family structure in South Asia. At the same time, we will develop the skills of scholarly reading, thinking, research, discussion, and writing that comprise part of the richness of a liberal arts education.

In the century leading up to independence in South Asia, religious and ethnic identities became prime politically mobilizing factors in many competing anti-colonial movements. The violent 1947 partition of South Asia on the basis of politically defined religious identity led to the creation of the Islamic republics of Pakistan and Bangladesh; while officially secular, India has also moved recently toward religious nationalism. Cross-cutting these religious communities, however, are powerful ethnic identities, including regional nationalisms and "caste-based" parties. Further, shifting ideas about gender shape identities in South Asia, with its 1.5 billion people and growing economic and military power will prove an ever more important region in all our lives.

The central organizing theme of the seminar will be study of the historical process that eventuated in these religious, ethnic, and political identities and movements, from the colonial period to the present. This will involve close reading and critiques of primary and secondary texts. At the same time, the seminar will use a range of disciplinary research and writing projects to produce new scholarship. Through this seminar, we will advance a liberal arts education that can empower us to understand complex societies, issues, and ideas within South Asian cultures.

Learning Objectives:

a. an introduction to the liberal arts, including: skills necessary for critical thinking, civil and persuasive discussion, and comprehensive research; control over multiple disciplinary methodologies; fluency in effective scholarly writing; and engagement with powerful issues of social relevance in a global context.
b. an introductory understanding of the historical processes that produced the current religious, political, and ethnic environments of South Asia.

Required texts to be purchased:
Khushwant Singh, Train to Pakistan (NY: Grove, 1956).

The Instructor will also make available (through Blackboard) various primary and secondary sources that are required reading. These total about 230 pages, so budget your print quota. Some are in Word (.doc) format, others in Acrobat (.pdf) format.

Course writing requirements:
1) Write four position papers (250-500 words each). They will be graded, with an opportunity to rewrite from the draft for a revised grade. There is a penalty of 3 points off every two hours it is late, and
2) Write one 3000-4000 word research paper, with penultimate draft version submitted, on topic to be decided through individual consultation with the instructor. Each student will present her/his paper in class, as well as serve as discussant one other student's paper.

Assessment:
Position Papers averaged: 30%; Class discussion 30%; Research Paper: 40%
The grading is as follows: 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.

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).
All requests for accommodation due to special needs will be entertained by the instructor if submitted in advance with endorsement from Ms. Boomer.

Class meetings

9/5 Overview of the seminar, a Liberal Arts education, and religion and politics in South Asian history. Assignment for next meeting: Discover and assess one major source for the scholarly study of people in South Asian History. Be prepared to discuss how you went about finding and assessing this source.

9/7 Context of South Asia: Cultural and Physical Geography and History to 1857. Discussion of identities and sources. Required: From Rg Veda and Dharma Shastra (Blackboard, .doc, 5 pp).

9/11 (by Monday noon) first 250-500 word position paper due: read and analyze the selection from Susan Bayly, *Caste* (Blackboard, .doc, 20 pp.)

9/12 Discussion: Identifying categories: Religious, political, and ethnic communities. For this class, read any three of your colleagues' position papers (on Blackboard) and come to class prepared to discuss in depth any one of those three.

9/14 Religious texts and daily practice Islam and Sikhism Required Selections from Quran and Granth (Blackboard, .doc, 14 pp.) plus find and read any one scholarly book review of Bayly, *Caste*

9/17 (Sunday, 6:00 PM) Seminar dinner at Mr. Fisher's home (241 Oak St.--from Rice/King go west on Professor St. to Cedar St., then south two blocks to Oak St.).

9/18 (by Monday noon) rewritten first position paper due.

9/19 Colonialism and Counting Categories Required any two (or all three) of the following: Jones, "Religious Identity" (Blackboard, .doc, 17 pp.) and/or Cohn, "Census" (Blackboard, .doc, 18 pp.) and/or Guha, "Politics of Identity" (Blackboard, .doc, 23 pp.)

9/21 Early Nationalism and Religious Identity

9/25 (by Monday noon) second 250-500 word position paper due on M. Gandhi, *Autobiography* Parts I and II (Blackboard, .doc, 55 pp.)

9/26 Nationalism: M. Gandhi
For this class, read any three of your colleagues' position papers (on Blackboard) and come to class prepared to discuss in depth any one of those three.

(this week, work with instructor on choosing the topic for your 3000-4000 word research paper)

9/28 Other Nationalisms
Required: selections: Jinnah, Savarkar, Ambedkar, and Bose (Blackboard, .doc, 11 pp.).

10/3 Subaltern Perspective
Required: Shahid Amin, "Gandhi as Mahatma" (Blackboard, .doc, 48 pp.)

10/4 (by Wednesday noon) rewritten second position paper due.

10/5 NO CLASS, begin reading Singh, *Train to Pakistan*

10/9 (by Monday noon) third 250-500 word position paper due on Singh, *Train to Pakistan.*

10/10-12 Discussion of Singh, *Train to Pakistan.*
For Tuesday's class, read any three of your colleagues' position papers (on Blackboard) and come to class
prepared to discuss in depth any one of those three.

Fall Break N.B.: get ahead by starting to read Oldenburg, Dowry Murder

10/23 (by Monday noon) rewritten third position paper due

10/24-26 See and discuss Garam Hawa in class

10/27 (by Friday noon) Submit to instructor paper topic prospectus and preliminary bibliography.

10/31-11/2 overview of post 1947 Indian History Nehru and secularism
Required: Upendra Baxi "Constitutional Discourse on Secularism" (Blackboard, Acrobat .pdf, 12 pp.)

11/6 (by Monday noon) fourth position paper on Oldenburg, Dowry Murder, Preface and pp. 1-39 due.

For this class, read any three of your colleagues' position papers (on Blackboard) and come to class prepared to discuss in depth any one of those three.

11/9 Oldenburg, Dowry Murder, pp. 41-98.

11/13 (by Monday noon) rewritten fourth position paper due.


11/16 See film: Mehta, "Fire" (I)

11/21 Oldenburg, Dowry Murder, pp. 175-228 and finish Mehta, "Fire" (II).

11/23 No class (Thanksgiving)

11/28 Recent Indian History: "Secular" state and the Uniform Civil Code in today's India.
Required: Rajeswari Sunder Rajan, "Women Between Community and State" (Blackboard, Acrobat .pdf format, 28 pp.)

11/30 Full penultimate draft of research paper due at the start of class.

12/5 Presentation and discussion of papers (part I).

12/7 Presentation and discussion of papers (part II).

12/12 Presentation and discussion of papers (part III).

12/14 Presentation and discussion of papers (part IV).

12/19 (Tuesday) at 9:00 AM. As scheduled as examination time final version of research paper due.