This course focuses on history of war and society in India/South Asia from a global perspective. It approaches South Asian history, society, and culture from the perspective of the changing nature and role of warfare. This course is intended for students with little or no prior knowledge of the region. Starting with a discussion of the nature of Alexander’s invasion of India in 326 BCE, the course shifts its focus to Islamic invasions and conquests in India. It then goes on to deal with the nature and origin of India’s colonization under the East India Company. This course also discusses Gandhi’s “nonviolent war” against the British Empire. The course concludes with a discussion of the Indian epic, the Mahabharata, and the idea of war as fate. While focusing on history, one of the aims is to understand our current global world in historical perspective.

Course Requirements

There will be one midterm and one final examination in this course. The writing requirement is two 5 page papers on assigned topics which will be handed out a week in advance. In addition, everyone is expected to attend regularly and contribute actively to class discussions. Grades will be determined in the following manner:

(1) Midterm examination (March 9)  
20%

(2) Final Examination (May 6)  
40%

(2) Two paper assignments (Feb. 9, Apr. 6) (15% each)  
30%

(3) Class Attendance and participation (attendance will be taken regularly)  
10%

Required Texts

- Ahmed Rashid, Taliban, Militant Islam, Oil, and Fundamentalism in Central Asia (Yale University Press, 2000)

These books will be available at CU Bookstore on campus. Copies of the required books and readings are also on reserve in Norlin Library. All other articles and excerpts of books on the syllabus will be placed on e-reserve.

Please note: Only ONE 2000-level HIST course can be applied to History major requirements. Students who think they want to major in History should not take more than one 2000-level HIST course.

Disability Statement: 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 Disability Services Office in Willard 322 (phone 303-492-8671).

Procedures about Absences due to Religious Observances: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students, who, because of religious observances, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or require attendance. Please let me know of any conflicts in advance so that your needs may be accommodated.

Honor Code: All Students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). For further information, see http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/.

Decorum Statement: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity, and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. Additional information may be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html.

Sexual Harassment: The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff, and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Further information can be obtained at http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/.

Writing Assistance: If you want assistance or pointers on your writing, contact the Writing Center. For information, see http://www.colorado.edu/pwr/wctext.html

WEEK ONE
January 17-19

Introduction: Geography and Demography
Kulke and Rothermund, *History of India*, xii-xxiii.

WEEK TWO
Jan. 22-26

Geography and Demography &
The State, the War Elephant, and the Nature of Warfare in India on the Eve of Alexander’s Invasion

**WEEK THREE**
Jan. 29-Feb. 2

The Greek Hoplite, the Macedonian Phalanx, and Alexander’s Invasion of Persia and India
Selections from Victor David Hanson, *The Western Way of War: Infantry Battle in Classical Greece*

**PAPER TOPIC WILL BE HANDED OUT ON FEBRUARY 9 AND THE PAPER WILL BE DUE ON FEBRUARY 16 IN CLASS**

**WEEK FOUR**
February 5-9

The Battle between Alexander and Porus and the Retreat of Alexander from India (326-325 BCE)
Selections from Theodore Dodge, *Alexander*

**WEEK FIVE**
Feb. 12-16

Arab and Turkish Invasions/Raids and the Rise of Islam and Islamic Empire in India (711-1206)
Kulke and Rothermund, *History of India*, 113-138

**WEEK SIX**
Feb. 19-23

The Mughal Empire under Akbar and Beyond (1556-1658)
Selections from J. F. Richards, *The Mughal Empire*

**MIDTERM EXAM REVIEW TO BE HANDED OUT ON MARCH 2**

**WEEK SEVEN**
Feb. 26-Mar. 2

Emperor Aurangzeb, the Maratha Insurgency, and the Decline of the Turkish-Islamic Mughal Empire (1658-1707)

**MIDTERM EXAM ON MARCH 9**

**WEEK EIGHT**
March 5-9

Toward Colonialism: Vasco da Gama and the Discovery of the Sea Route to India in 1498
Nigel Cliff, *Holy War: How Vasco da Gama’s Epic Voyages Turned the Tide in Centuries-Old Clash of Civilizations*
WEEK NINE  
Mar. 12-16  
The Birth of the Warrior as the Trader: Pirates, Privateers, and International Trade in Cotton  

WEEK TEN  
March 19-23  
East India Company and the Colonization of India  
Selections from John Keay, *The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company*

WEEK ELEVEN  
Mar. 26-30  
Spring Break: No Classes

SECOND PAPER TOPIC WILL BE HANDED OUT ON APRIL 6 AND THE PAPER WILL BE DUE ON APRIL 13 IN CLASS

WEEK TWELVE  
April 2-6  
Anglo-Afghan War and the Geopolitics of the British Empire  
Selections from William Dalrymple, *The Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan, 1839-1842*

WEEK THIRTEEN  
Apr. 9-13  
Nonviolent War?: Gandhi and the Anticolonial Resistance Movement against the British Empire  
Select Readings; Select scenes from the film, *Gandhi*

WEEK FOURTEEN  
Apr. 16-20  
Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the British Imperial Legacy: Geopolitics of Eurasia  
Ahmed Rashid, *Taliban, Militant Islam, Oil, and Fundamentalism in Central Asia*

FINAL EXAM REVIEW TO BE HANDED OUT ON APRIL 27

WEEK FIFTEEN  
Apr. 23-27  
The *Mahabharata* and the Idea of War as Fate  
R K Narayan, *The Mahabharata*

WEEK SIXTEEN  
Apr. 30-May 4  
STUDY WEEK

FINAL EXAM:  
DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 6  
TIME: 7:30PM-10:00PM