Global History of War and Society in India/ South Asia

HIST 2220-002
Spring 2019
MWF-1:00 pm-1:50 pm
CLRE 208

Professor: Sanjay Gautam
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This course focuses on history of war and society in India/ South Asia from a global perspective. It approaches Indian/ 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 321 BCE, the course shifts its focus to the rise of Islam and the subsequent Arab-Turkish invasions and conquests in India. It then goes on to deal with the rise of maritime trading and naval powers--Portugal, Spain, and Britain—setting off fierce colonial wars that eventually led to the colonization of India by the British East India Company. As part of the history of the British Empire and its legacy, we also focus on the geopolitical Great Game over Afghanistan and Central Asia between Britain and Russia, and later between the US and the Soviet Union. The course concludes with a discussion of the Indian epic, the Mahabharata, and the idea of war as fate. The aim of this course 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 15)  20%
2. Final Examination (May 6)  40%
3. Two paper assignments (Feb. 8, Apr. 12) (15% each)  30%
4. Class Attendance and participation (attendance will be taken regularly)  10%

Required Texts


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.

Class Rule: No Computers or other electronic devices are allowed in class.

Attendance Policy: Five or more absences without prior permission will lead to the deduction of 10% of your grade.
Please note: Only ONE 2000-level HIST course can be applied to History major requirements. Students who think they may 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 14-18

Introduction: Geography and Demography
Kulke and Rothermund, History of India, xii-xxiii.
WEEK TWO
Jan. 23-25
Geography and Demography
 &
The State, the War Elephant, and the Nature of Warfare in India on the Eve of Alexander’s Invasion
Selections from R. C. Majumadar, The Age of Imperial Unity;
Thomas R Trautmann, Elephants and Kings & John M Kisler, War Elephants

WEEK THREE
Jan. 28-Feb. 1
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 8 AND THE PAPER WILL BE DUE ON FEBRUARY 15 IN CLASS

WEEK FOUR
February 4-8
The Battle between Alexander and Porus and the Retreat of Alexander from India (326-325 BCE)
Selections from Theodore Dodge, Alexander

WEEK FIVE
Feb. 11-15
The Rise of Islam and the Advent of Islamic Empires in India (711-1206): Arab and Turkish Raids and Invasions
Kulke and Rothermund, History of India, 113-138

WEEK SIX
Feb. 18-22
The Mughal Empire under Akbar and Beyond (1556-1658)
Selections from J. F. Richards, The Mughal Empire

WEEK SEVEN
Feb. 25-Mar. 1
Emperor Aurangzeb, the Maratha Insurgency, and the Decline of the Turkish-Islamic Mughal Empire (1685-1707)
J. F. Richards, The Mughal Empire, 205-252.

MIDTERM EXAM REVIEW TO BE HANDED OUT ON MARCH 8 AND THE MIDTERM EXAM WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 15

WEEK EIGHT
March 4-8
Toward Colonialism: Henry the Navigator and the Search for a Sea Route to India
Nigel Cliff, *Holy War: How Vasco da Gama’s Epic Voyages Turned the Tide in Centuries-Old Clash of Civilizations*

**WEEK NINE**
Mar. 11-15
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 TEN**
March 18-22
The Birth of the Warrior as Trader: Pirates, Privateers, and International Trade in Cotton

**WEEK ELEVEN**
Mar. 25-29
Spring Break: No Classes

**SECOND PAPER TOPIC WILL BE HANDED OUT ON APRIL 5 AND THE PAPER WILL BE DUE ON APRIL 12 IN CLASS**

**WEEK TWELVE**
April 1-5
East India Company and the Colonization of India
Selections from John Keay, *The Honourable Company: A History of the English East India Company*

**WEEK THIRTEEN**
Apr. 8-12
Anglo-Afghan Wars and the Geopolitics of the British Empire
Selections from William Dalrymple, *The Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan, 1839-1842*

**WEEK FOURTEEN**
Apr. 15-19
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 26**

**WEEK FIFTEEN**
Apr. 22-26
The *Mahabharata* and the Idea of War as Fate
R K Narayan, *The Mahabharata*
WEEK SIXTEEN
Apr. 29-May 3

STUDY WEEK

FINAL EXAM:
DATE: MONDAY, MAY 6
TIME: 1:30PM-4:00PM