

CULTURES OF SOUTH ASIA ANTH 331 (CRN 10940)

Prof. Lamia Karim

McKenzie 240

Tues/ Thurs 10-11:50 AM

Office Hours T/TH 4-5 PM and by appointment

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GTF: James Daria

This course is designed as an introduction to the peoples and cultures of the countries that make up modern South Asia—India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka—and the contemporary problems that mark South Asia in a global context. The purpose of this course is to dislocate/complicate essentialized representations of South Asia as a timeless “object” of study, and toward a complex analysis of how South Asian cultures and identities are produced and shaped by structures of colonialism, nationalism and globalization. The course focuses on a variety of issues that inform modern South Asia such as caste, class, nationalism, ethnic violence, family life, gender, sexuality, diaspora, and globalization.

Required Texts: All books and course pack are available at UO Duck Store.

1. Lamia Karim. 2011. *Microfinance and Its Discontents: Women in Debt in Bangladesh*, University of Minnesota Press, 2011

2. Singh, Khushwant. *Train to Pakistan*

3. Visweswaran, Kamala. 2011. *Perspectives on Modern South Asia: A Reader in Culture, History and Representation*, Wiley-Blackwell

4. A few articles are on Blackboard under Course Documents

All articles are from *Perspective on Modern South Asia* unless otherwise noted

Course Requirements and Policies

Please read the following carefully.

Assignments:

Quiz 1 10 %

Exam I 40 %

Exam II 40%

Report (3 pages) on one of the following:

Everyday Life in a Megacity or

Microfinance Event 10 %

There is no Final Exam in this course.

Grading:

There is a GTF assigned to this course who will grade all assignments. If you have questions regarding a grade you received, your first line of duty is to meet with the GTF to resolve it. If have failed to come to an understanding, only then will you meet me for a resolution. Please note that I do not assign A+ scores in survey classes.

Assignments

In order to be successful in this course, it is important that you do the assigned readings and come prepared to engage in class discussion.

Guidelines for readings the assigned texts:

1. What are the author's main objectives, goals and agendas?
2. What are the major findings?
3. What is the context for the writing of this article? To what body of theory does the article relate?
4. How does the article relate to the issues and theoretical debates previously discussed in class? You may also bring in readings from outside the class, and of course, your own experiences.
5. Do you agree with the arguments? why? why not?
6. How do you evaluate the article? What questions does it raise for you?

Quiz (10 Points)

It will be a pop quiz that will test your knowledge of the geography of the region, Indus Valley Civilization, and British History of India.

Exams I and II (40 Points Each)

The tests in this course are designed to test your knowledge of the readings and lectures. For example, your test may have a question like the following: "In the essay, "High and Low Castes in Karani," the author asserts that the different castes in the community live in a state of constant conflict." Is this statement true or false?

Exam I will comprise of multiple choice, true/false, and short essay questions.

Exam II will be an in-class essay exam may include some multiple choice/true false questions.

Report (10 Points)

All of you will do an analytical report of 3 pages, double-spaced, Font Times 12 on one of the following events:

- 1) *Everyday Life in a Mega-City*
- 2) *Microfinance Event with Investigative Filmmaker Tom Heinemann*

Mega City: What do you see in the photographs? How do your impressions compare with the photographer's take? Select two images to analyze your impressions of a mega-city in South Asia.

Microfinance: Do a critical analysis of microfinance based on the readings, film and discussion with Tom Heinemann.

Assignments are due on dates assigned unless the instructor gives prior permission. Late assignments will be accepted only in the event of accidents, a family emergency or serious illness (a physician's note or documentation is required). No make-up examinations will be given without proper documentation.

Class Rules

This class is a contract between the professor and the students. While I will do my best to provide you with the information you need to be successful in this course, it is also your responsibility to help make the course successful. Classes will be conducted in the following format: lectures followed by discussion on the materials covered. Please do not interrupt the professor during lectures. You will have ample time at the end of the class for discussion. Based on our class discussions, I reserve the right to change the assigned readings.

Here are some dos and don'ts for this class:

Please read the materials prior to class.

You are strongly encouraged to meet with me during office hours.

You are allowed to bring beverages to class but no food is allowed.

You are encouraged to bring to my attention news articles/books/videos you think may be of interest to the class.

Absolutely no **CELL PHONE USE** is allowed during class. Please turn off the ringer during class.

Please do not arrive late for class or leave early without prior notification. If you have to leave early for some reason, please sit close to an exit.

Please do not read newspapers or use text messaging in class.

No laughing, giggling and passing notes in class. Please understand that such behavior is both disrespectful and disruptive to the instructor and fellow students. **I will take off points for disruptive behavior during class.**

E-mail Message Policy. I have an e-mail message policy for large classes I teach. In the course of a day, I receive many messages, and it is not possible for me to respond to all of them. However, I do want to make sure that your questions and concerns are addressed in a timely manner. I am available to discuss questions pertaining to class readings during my office hours and after class. During Monday thru Thursday, you will get a response from me within 24 hours. For messages sent to me on weekends, I may not be able to respond to your messages until Monday morning.

Attendance. In order for the course to be successful, it is important that you do the readings, come prepared to participate in class discussions, and show up for class on time.

Blackboard will be used in this course. Please read Blackboard regularly for class-related announcements. Changes to class scheduling, directed questions for reading, etc. will be posted on Blackboard. For example, if I have to cancel class one day, I will post the message on Blackboard.

Disabilities. Students with disabilities who are taking this course and need disability-related accommodations should inform the instructor immediately and file documentation with the Office of Disability Services (164 Oregon Hall) or visit their website: <http://www.ds.uoregon.edu>.

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty is a very serious academic offence. Any student caught plagiarizing will automatically get a **Fail** grade for that assignment. A repeat offence will be reported to the Office of Academic Dishonesty. Plagiarism consists of inserting phrases, sentences, paragraphs or more from another source without proper attribution including quotation marks and a footnote indicating the source. It also includes using purchased papers or downloading material from any Internet source without explicit quotation.

Please review the University policy on Academic Dishonesty for details visit: <http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/judicial/conduct/sai.htm>. It is your **RESPONSIBILITY** to make sure that you understand this policy, and that you follow university policy accordingly.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week One Introduction to Modern South Asia

- 9/27 A review of ancient India and colonialism
<http://www.harappa.com/indus/indus0.html>
Visweswaran, "Reconceptualizing Nation and Region in Modern South Asia"
- 9/29 Farmer, B.H. "The British Period, The Coming of Independence, and Partition" (on blackboard as a PDF)
Mayaram, S. "Beyond Ethnicity? Being Hindu and Muslim in South Asia"

Week Two Modern Forms of Social Classification

- 10/4 Cohn, Bernard. "Notes on the History of the Study of Indian Society and Culture,"
Srinivas, M.N. "A Note on Sanskritization and Westernization"
- 10/6 **Quiz 1**
Geoffrey Hiller. Presentation on "Everyday Life in a Megacity," 11 AM
We will walk over to the Mills International Center at 10:50 AM
Reception at 12 noon with photographer for those who are able to attend
Start reading *Microfinance and Its Discontents*

Week Three Development

- 10/11 Ludden, David. "Development and Liberalization"
Sen, Amartya. "Radical Needs and Moderate Reforms"

10/13 *Microfinance and Its Discontents*
Microfinance File on Blackboard. Please review for class discuss

Week Four Development

10/18 Yunus. "Social Business" (On Blackboard)
Foundational Myths: The first borrower of Grameen Bank
<http://opinion.bdnews24.com/2011/09/20/microcredit-doesn%E2%80%99t-work-%E2%80%93-it%E2%80%99s-now-official/#more-2519>

10/20 **Class meets from 7-9 PM in PLC 180**
Attendance Required: Does Microfinance Work?

10/25 "The Politics of Developing Nepali Women"
"The City of Whores": Nationalism, Development and Global Garment Workers in Sri Lanka"
Reports due (Megacity or Microfinance)

10/27 **Midterm Exam**
Start reading Train to Pakistan

Week Six Partition, Nationalism, State Formation

11/1 Singh, K. *Train to Pakistan*
Menon, R. and Bhasin, K. "Abducted Women, the State and Questions of Honor: Three Perspectives on the recovery operation in Post-Partition India,"
Film: *Khamosh Pani* (Still Water)

11/3 Finish watching *Khamosh Pani*
Naila Kabeer. "The Quest for National Identity: Women, Islam and the State in Bangladesh"
Valentine Moghadam. "Nationalist Agendas and Women's Rights: Conflicts in Afghanistan in the 20th century"

Week Seven Caste and Sexuality

11/8 Nanda, Serena. "Hijra and Sadhin: Neither Man nor Woman in India," (article posted to Blackboard)
Film: *Between the Lines*

11/10 Pradhan, "Ethnicity, Caste and Pluralistic Society"
Guru, G. and A. Chakravarty. "Who are the country's Poor? Social Movement Politics and Dalit Poverty"
Jadhav. "Up Against Bondage" in *Untouchables* (PDF on Blackboard)
Film: *Caste At Birth*

Week Eight Social Movements

- 11/15 From Chipko to Sati: The Contemporary Indian Women's Movement
Chittaroopa Palit. "Monsoon risings: Mega-Dam Resistance in the
Narmade Valley"
Film: *Drowned Out*
- 11/17 Gautam, Banskota, Manchnadana. "Where there are no Men: Women in
the Maoist Insurgency in Nepal"
"A Perfect Storm: A Human Geography of Climate Change and
Globalization in Coastal Bangladesh"
Prof. Karim's research on globalization and climate change in Bangladesh

Week Nine Globalization

- 11/22 Zakaria, Fareed, "India Rising" (posted on Blackboard)
Film: *Superman of Malegaon*

11/24 Thanksgiving

Week Ten

- 11/29 "Developing the anti-nuclear movement"
"Pakistan's Fateful Nuclear Option"
- 12/1 Exam II