

South Asian Civilizations  
Spring 2010  
Rochona Majumdar

Books to be purchased at the Seminary Co-op

M.K.Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj and Other Writings*, edited by Anthony Parel, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Stephen Hay ed. *Sources of Indian Tradition*, Vol. 2, New York: Columbia University Press, 1988.

Willem Van Schendel, *A History of Bangladesh*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Requirements: 1. One 5-7 page paper due on June 7<sup>th</sup> (hard copies only). No extensions (unless there is an emergency. I leave for India on June 8<sup>th</sup> and would like to have the papers with me before I go.

2. On week seven there will be group presentations. You are expected to divide into groups of four and determine a topic in consultation with other members of your group and me. Possible topics include (but does not exhaust) caste conflict in contemporary India (would be good to focus on one party, or a group of states, or a group of leaders like Mayawati); terrorism in South Asia (again you could focus on the Mumbai attacks of 2008, or incidents in North Eastern India, or Maoist insurgencies); feminist politics in South Asia; contemporary art and artists (the controversy surrounding the Indian artist M. F. Hussain for example); the state of Indian cinema etc. You will be expected to research these topics as a group (so each group should divide tasks amongst themselves) by looking at newspapers, magazines, fictional representations, filmic representations, government reports and so on and prepare twenty-twenty five minute presentations. You will be expected to deliver this as a “mini lecture” to the class. Groups are encouraged to be as creative as they like with these presentations. So, if you wish, you can do a multimedia presentation using power point, clips etc.

Office hours: Thursdays 1.45- 4.15. Foster 213.

W-1

Weds, March 31

Introduction

W-2

Mon, April 5

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (selections)

Weds, April 7

Michael Dodson, *Orientalism, Empire, and National Culture*, chapters 1 (pp. 18- 40); Debendranath Tagore, “The Conflict between Sanskritic and Western Education.”

W-3

Mon, April 12

*Sources of Indian Tradition, Sources of Indian Tradition*, “An Attempted Mughal Restoration,” Syed Ahmad Khan (all his writings in the selection).

Weds, April 14

*Sources of Indian Tradition*, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (all his writings in the selection); Lala Lajpat Rai, “An Open Letter to Syed Ahmad Khan,” B.G.Tilak, “The Gita versus the Penal Code” and “The Message of the Bhagvad Gita.”

W-4

Mon, April 19

M.K. Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj*

Weds, April 21

M.K. Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* (also the supplementary writings)

W-5

Mon, April 26

*Sources of Indian Tradition*, Rabindranath Tagore, “Gandhi versus Truth”, Gandhi: The Best of Men in the New Age”, B.R. Ambedkar, “A Denunciation of Mr. Gandhi”, “The Annihilation of Caste.”

Weds, April 28

*Sources of Indian Tradition*, Mohamed Ali, “The Communal Patriot”, Rahmat Ali, “Giving a Name to Pakistan”, Abul Kalam Azad, “The Muslims of India and the Future of India.”

W-6

Mon, May 3

V.D. Savarkar, “The Glories of the Hindu Nation,” M.A. Jinnah, “A Vision of Pakistan.”

Weds, May 5

Mohammad Munir, “Is There A Islamic State?”, General Ayub Khan, “The Revivalists against National Unity”, Syed Abul-ala-Maududi (all his writings in this selection).

W-7

Mon, May 10

Group presentations.

Weds, May 12

Group presentations.

W-8

Mon, May 17

Willem Van Schendel, *A History of Bangladesh*, Part III.

Weds, May 19

Willem Van Schendel, *A History of Bangladesh*, Part IV.

W-9

Mon, May 24

“A Rallying Cry for Muslim Personal Law,” in Barbara Metcalf eds., *Islam in South Asia*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009, 352-367.

Weds, May 26

Perveez Mody, “Kidnapping, elopement and abduction: an ethnography of love-marriage in Delhi,” in Francesca Orsini ed. *Love in South Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

W-10

Mon, May 31

Discussion of essay topics.

Weds: No class

Papers due Mon Jun 7<sup>th</sup>.