

Literature and Politics of South Asia

English 289 and Political Science 289



Wellesley College

Fall 2002

Instructor: Margery Sabin
Office: 114 Founders Hall
Office phone: 283-2636
Office hours: Tue 3-4, Wed 3-4,
and by appointment

Instructor: Christopher Candland
Office: 245 Pendleton East
Office phone: 283-2197
Office hours: Mon 2-4, Tue 3-4,
and by appointment

Class hours: Tue and Fri 1:30-2:40
Class room: 139 Pendleton East

DESCRIPTION

Much of the literature of South Asia is embedded in political struggle; much of the politics of South Asia is fought over language and representation. This course introduces contemporary South Asia through political and literary analysis organized around three clusters: Religious Nationalism and Violence; Gender, Family, and Society; and Literature, Politics, and Social Change. The course uses political and historical writing, social theory, literature, and film. In addition to using literature and political studies to illuminate and complement each other, the course raises awareness of how different disciplines analyze and evaluate material.

REQUIREMENTS

Students are to read assignments before the class in which they are discussed, prepare for participation in discussion, and attend class. In addition, attendance at three evening video showings is required. Other assignments are two response essays (no more than 500 words), two short papers (no more than 1,000 words), and one final paper (no more than 3,000 words). The response papers discuss the reading for one class; they are graded on a pass/fail basis. There will be a choice of questions on which to write the short papers. The final paper is to be based on an approved one-page abstract and preliminary bibliography.

DEADLINES

first short paper	19 Feb
second short paper	8 Apr
first response essay	12 Mar
second response essay	7 May
final paper	20 May 4:00 pm

EXTENSIONS

Extensions are given only if your class dean or doctor informs one of the instructors of an emergency or illness. Unexcused later papers will be penalized.

MATERIALS

All assigned reading, except the three books directly below, is contained in two course readers. These are available in the Political Science Department for US\$10 (\$5 each). The two volumes are also on reserve at the Knapp Library:

Manju Kapur, *Difficult Daughters* (Faber and Faber 1999)
Michael Ondaatje, *Anil's Ghost* (Vintage International 2001)
Kushwant Singh, *Train to Pakistan* (Grove Press 1990 (1956))

Also at the bookstore are the following books, which you may want to purchase. The readings from these books are in the course reader.

Urvashi Butalia, *The Other Side of Silence* (New Direction 2000)
Khadija Haq, *Human Development in South Asia 2000* (Oxford Pakistan 2000)
Ian Jack, *India!* (Granta Books 1997)
Patricia Jeffery and Amrita Basu, *Appropriating Gender* (Routledge 1998)
Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children* (Penguin 1980)
Josiane Racine and Jean-Luc Racine, *Viramma: Life of an Untouchable* (Verso 1997)

CLASS SCHEDULE

Jan 29 Introduction

Karl Marx, "British Rule in India" and "The Future Results of British Rule in India" (Marx and Engels (1853) 1972: 35-41, 81-87)

RELIGIOUS NATIONALISM AND VIOLENCE

Feb 1 British India 1835-1947

Thomas Babington Macaulay, "Minute on Indian Education" (Macaulay (1835) 1967: 719-730)
Angus Maddison, "The Social Origins and Ideology of the Nationalist Movement"
(Maddison 1971: 71-75)

Feb 5 Autobiography

Homer Jack, "Chronology" (of Gandhi's life) (Jack 1956: 511-517)
Mohandas Gandhi, "Benares University Speech" (Jack (1916) 1956: 128-133).
Mohandas Gandhi, selections from *My Experiments with Truth* (Gandhi (1927) 1948: 3-8,
11-37, 252-260, 386-409)
Jawaharlal Nehru, selections from *Autobiography* (Nehru (1941) 1942: 16-73)

Feb 5 (7pm) Video: *Eqbal Ahmad and the Partitioning of India* (52 min)

Feb 8 Nationalist Debates on the Minority Question

Jawaharlal Nehru, selection from *The Discovery of India* (Nehru 1946: 380-294)
Jawaharlal Nehru, selections from *Mahatma Gandhi* (Nehru 1949: 33, 39-45, 57-59, 68-72,
102-105, 111, 114-117, 119, 124)
Mohammad Ali Jinnah, "Lahore Resolution," "President Address of M. A. Jinnah," [Madras,
14 April 1941], and "All India Muslim League Council Meeting," [Lahore, 40 July
1944], (Pirzada 1969: 489-496)
Mohammad Ali Jinnah, selections from *Quaid-e-Azam Jinnah's Correspondence* (with
Gandhi and Nehru) (Pirzada 1981: 88-90, 194-195, 197, 244)
Thomas Hansen, "Hindutva and the 'Lack' in the Hindus" (Hansen 1999: 77-80)
Madhav Rao Savarkar, "Vinayak Savarkar: Hindu Nationalist" (De Bary 1958: 878-887)
Sayyid Abdul Ala Maududi, "Syed Abu'l -A'la Maudoodi" (De Bary 1958, 853-864)

Feb 12 Partition Stories

Saadat Hasan Manto, "Toba Tek Singh" and "The Dog of Titwal" (Manto 1987: 11-18, 19-24)
Kushwant Singh, *Train to Pakistan* (Singh 1955: entire)

Feb 15 Partition Stories (continued)

Urvashi Butalia, "Blood" (Jack 1997: 13-22)

Urvashi Butalia, "Maya Rani" and "Memory" (Butalia 1998: 251-258, 261-278)

Feb 19 No class (Mon schedule)

note: first paper due

Feb 22 Fiction from History

Salman Rushdie, from *Midnight's Children* (Rushdie 1980: 1-88)

Feb 26 Fiction from History (continued)

Salman Rushdie, from *Midnight's Children* (Rushdie 1980: 89-138)

Mar 1 Kashmir

Saadat Hasan Manto, "The Last Salute" and "Afterword: Uncle Manto's Death" (Manto 1987: 25-34, 249-253)

Pankaj Mishra, "Death in Kashmir," "Birth of a Nation," and "Kashmir: The Unending War" (Mishra 2000: 1-16, 1-15, 1-12)

Mar 5 Visit by Pankaj Mishra

Discussion of Kashmir as Legacy of Partition

Mar 6 (7pm) Pankaj Mishra, Lecture on India-Pakistan Conflict, Library Lecture Room

GENDER, FAMILY, AND SOCIETY

Mar 8 Gender and Women's Social Opportunity in South Asia

Khadija ul Haq, "Women and Gender," "Women and the Law," and "Education of Girls and Women" (ul Haq 2000: 24-33, 76-101, 104-116)

Amartya Sen, "Women's Agency and Social Change" (Sen 2001: 189-203)

Aparna Basu, "Women's Education in India" (Ray and Basu 1999: 135-157)

Mar 12 Gender, Inequality, and Women's Agency in Short Stories by Women

Ambai (C.S. Lakshmi), "Gifts" (Chauduri 2001: 297-305)

M.K. Indira, "Phaniyamma" (Tharu and Lalita 1990: 138-144)

Razia Sajja Zaher, "Neech" (Tharu and Lalita 1990: 144-153)

Mahasweta Devi, "The Hunt" (Devi 1995: ix-17)

Ketu Katrak, "Indian Nationalism, Gandhian 'Satyagraha,' and Representation of Female Sexuality" (Parker and Russo 1992: 395-406)

Mar 12 (7pm) Videos: *Trial by Fire* (60 min) and *Fire* (104 min)

Mar 15 Pseudo-Secularism and the Muslim Women's Bill

Zoya Hasan, "Muslim Women and the Debate on Legal Reforms" (Ray and Basu 1999: 120-134)

Urvashi Butalia, "Muslims and Hindus, Men and Women" (Butalia 1995: 58-81)

Mar 16-24 Spring break

Mar 26 Gender, Motherhood, and Protest

Sadaat Hassan Manto "The Black Salwar" and "Insult" (Flemming 1985: 206-219, 242-260)

Caitrin Lynch, "From Resistance to Sexuality" (Lynch 2001: 1-41)

Malathi de Alwis "Motherhood as a Space of Protest" (Jeffery and Basu 1998: 185-201)

Mar 29 Development and Women's Movements and Visit by Raka Ray

Discussion of Gender and Domestic Labor in India

Radha Kumar, "From Chipko to Sati: The Contemporary Indian Women's Movement" (Basu 1995: 8-86)

Raka Ray, "Masculinity, Femininity, and Servitude: Domestic Workers in Calcutta in the Late Twentieth Century" (Ray 2000: 1-18)

Apr 2 Sexuality and Dependence

Manju Kapur, *Difficult Daughters* (Kapur 1999: 1-177)

Apr 5 Sexuality and Dependence (continued)

Manju Kapur, *Difficult Daughters*, (Kapur 1999: 178-280)

Apr 8

note: second paper due

POLITICS, WRITING, AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Apr 9 Nostalgia and Rural Life

Rabindranath Tagore, "The Postmaster" (Chaudhuri 2001: 26-34)

Premchand, "The Road to Salvation," "A Catastrophe," and "Neyur" (Rubin 1969: 21-32; 48-52; 60-79)

April 9 (7pm) Videos: Satyajit Ray, *Two Daughters* ("The Postman" and "Samapti") (114 min)

Apr 12 Social Change and Rural Life

Paul Brass, "Politics and Agricultural Change" (Brass 1994: 320-335)

Gail Omvedt, "Women, Peasants, Tribals, and the Environment" (Omvedt 1993: 199-231)

Apr 16 Dalit Stories

Josiane Racine and Jean-Luc Racine, selections from *Viramma: Life of an Untouchable*, (Racine and Racine 1997: 6-49)

Josiane Racine and Jean-Luc Racine, "Routes to Emancipation" (Racine and Racine 1997: 306-312)

Sankarshan Thakur, "Charvaha in a Chopper" (Thakur 2000: 72-98)

Premchand, "The Shroud" and "Deliverance" (Rubin 1969: 186-194, 195-203)

Apr 23 Visit by Urvashi Butalia

Discussion of Making History from Transcripts

Apr 26 The Bombay Underworld

Jeremy Seabrook, "The Unsustainable City" (Seabrook 1993: 88-90)

Vikram Chandra, "The Siege of Kailashpada" (Chaudhuri 2001: 564-581)

Suketu Mehta, "Mumbai" (Mehta 1997: 96-126)

Christopher de Bellaigue, "Bombay at War" (Silvers and Epstein 2001: 35-52)

Apr 30 Interpretation and Evidence

Amnesty International, *Sri Lanka: Reports of Extrajudicial Executions* (Amnesty International May 1989: 1-45)

Amnesty International, *Sri Lanka: Continuing Human Rights Violations* (Amnesty International 1989: 1-19)

Michael Ondaatje, *Anil's Ghost* (Ondaatje 2001: 5-205)

May 3 Artists and Investigators

Michael Ondaatje, *Anil's Ghost* (Ondaatje 2001: 209-307)

May 7 Conclusions

note: proposal and preliminary bibliography for final paper due.

May 20 Final papers due at 4:00pm

Sources

Listed here are full citations to the course reading as well as material that may be useful for final paper projects.

Books and articles

- Bacchetta, Paula, "All Our Goddesses are Armed: Religion, Resistance, and Revenge in the Life of a Militant Hindu Nationalist Woman," *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*, 25: 4, (October-December 1994).
- Basu, Amrita, ed., *The Challenge of Local Feminisms*, Boulder: Westview Press, 1995.
- Baxter, Craig, et al., *Government and Politics in South Asia*, Boulder: Westview, 1993.
- Brass, Paul, *The Politics of India since Independence*, New York: Cambridge University Press, (second edition), 1994.
- Brown, Judith, *Modern India: The Origins of an Asian Democracy*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.
- Butalia, Urvashi, *The Other Side of Silence*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Chaudhuri, Amit, ed., *The Picador Book of Modern Indian Literature*, New Delhi: Picador, 2001.
- Cohen, Stephen, *The Indian Army*, Berkeley: University of California, 1987.
- Cohen, Stephen, *The Pakistan Army*, Berkeley: University of California, 1984.
- De Bary, William Theodore, ed., *Sources of the Indian Tradition*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1958.
- Devi, Mahasweta, *Imaginary Maps: Three Stories*, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, trans. and intro., New York: Routledge, 1995.
- Dréze, Jean, and Amartya Sen, *India: Economic Development and Social Opportunity*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Gandhi, Mohandas, *Selected Political Writings*, Dennis Dalton, ed. and intro., Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1996.
- Gandhi, Mohandas, *Gandhi's Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, Mahadev Desai, trans., Washington, DC: Public Affairs Press, 1948.
- Hansen, Thomas Blom, *The Saffron Wave: Democracy and Hindu Nationalism in Modern India*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999.
- Haq, Kadija ul, "Human Development Challenges in South Asia," *Journal of Human Development*, 1: 1, (2000), 71-82.
- Hardgrave, Robert, and Stanley Kochanek, "Indian Politics on the Internet: A Resource Guide," *Education about Asia*, 4: 2, (Fall 1999), 40-43.
- Jack, Ian, ed., *India!*, 57, New York: Granta, 1997.
- Jack, Homer, ed., *The Gandhi Reader: A Sourcebook of His Life and Writings*, Bloomington: Indian University Press, 1956.
- Jalal, Ayesha, *The Sole Spokesman: Jinnah, the Muslim League, and the Demand for Pakistan*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985.
- Jalal, Ayesha, *The State of Martial Law: The Origins of Pakistan's Political Economy of Defence*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1990.

- Jayawardena, Kumari, *Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World*, Atlantic Highlands: Zed Books, 1986.
- Jayawardena, Kumari, and Malathi de Alwis, *Embodied Violence: Communalising Women's Sexuality in South Asia*, Atlantic Highlands: Zed Books, 1996.
- Jeffery, Patricia, and Amrita Basu, eds., *Appropriating Gender: Women's Activism and Politicized Religion in South Asia*, New York: Routledge, 1998.
- Kapur, Manju, *Difficult Daughters*, London: Faber and Faber, 1998.
- Khan, Mohammad Ashgar, ed., *Islam, Politics, and the State*, London: Zed Books, 1985.
- Kishwar, Madhu, "Codified Hindu Law: Myth and Reality" *Economic and Political Weekly*, 29: 33, (1994), 2145-2161.
- Kohli, Atul, ed., *India's Democracy: An Analysis of Changing State-Society Relations*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990.
- Kumar, Radha, *The History of Doing: An Illustrated Account of Movements for Women's Rights and Feminism in India 1800-1990*, New Delhi: Kali Press for Women, 1993, New York: Verso, 1993.
- Lynch, Caitrin, "Gender and Labor in Sri Lanka," paper presented at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Conference on Globalization, Labor, and South Asian Communities, 9-10 November 2001.
- Macaulay, Thomas Babington, *Prose and Poetry*, G.M. Young, ed. and intro., Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1967.
- Maddison, Angus, *Class Structure and Economic Growth in India and Pakistan: India and Pakistan since the Moghuls*, New York: W.W. Norton, 1972.
- Malik, Iftikar Haider, *State and Civil Society in Pakistan*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997.
- Manto, Saadat Hasan, *Another Lonely Voice: The Life and Works of Manto*, Tahira Naqvi, trans., Lahore: Vanguard Books, 1985.
- Marx, Karl, and Frederick Engels, *On Colonialism: Articles from the New York Tribune and Other Writings*, New York: International Publishers, 1972.
- Mishra, Pankaj, "Birth of a Nation," *New York Review of Books*, 5 October 2000, 32-37, available at <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/13835>.
- Mishra, Pankaj, "Death in Kashmir," *New York Review of Books*, 21 September 2000, 36-42, available at <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/13813>.
- Mishra, Pankaj, "Kashmir: The Unending War," *New York Review of Books*, 19 October 2000, 23-28, available at <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/13850>.
- Moon, Vasant, *Growing up Untouchable in India: A Dalit Autobiography*, Gail Omvedt, trans., Eleanor Zelliot, intro., Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2001.
- Mumtaz, Khawar, and Farida Shaheen, *Women of Pakistan: Two Steps Forward One Step Back*, Lahore: Vanguard, 1987.
- Nasr, Seyyed Vali Reza, *The Vanguard of the Islamic Revolution: The Jama'at-i Islami of Pakistan*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994.
- Nehru, Jawaharlal, *Mahatma Gandhi*, Calcutta: Signet Press, 1949.
- Nehru, Jawaharlal, *Toward Freedom: the Autobiography of Jawaharlal Nehru*, New York: John Day Company 1942.
- Nehru, Jawaharlal, *Autobiography*, New Delhi: Oxford 1946.
- Nehru, Jawaharlal, *The Discovery of India*, New Delhi: Oxford, 1989.

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- Patel, Sujatha, and Alice Thorner, eds., *Bombay: Metaphor for Modern India*, Bombay: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Pirzada, Syed Sharifuddin, *Foundations of Pakistan: All-India Muslim League Documents*, volume 2, 1924-1947, Karachi, National Publishing House, 1969.
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- Premchand, *The World of Premchand*, David Rubin, trans., Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1969
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- Rao, Nita, Luise Rürup, and R. Sudarshan, eds., *Sites of Change: The Structural Context of Empowering Women in India*, New Delhi: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 1996.
- Ray, Bharati, and Aparna Basu, *From Independence Towards Freedom: Indian Women Since 1947*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Ray, Raka, "Masculinity, Femininity, and Servitude: Domestic Workers in Calcutta in the Late Twentieth Century," *Feminist Studies*, (26: 3), 2000, 1-38.
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Tharu, Susie, and K. Lalita, eds., *Women Writing in India: The 20th Century*, volume II, New York: The Feminist Press, 1993.

Wilson, A. Jeyaratnam, and Dennis Dalton, eds., *The States of South Asia*, Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1982.

Wolpert, Stanley, *Jinnah of Pakistan*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1984.

Videos

Eqbal Ahmad and the Partitioning of India, Directed by H. O. Nazareth with Eqbal Ahmad, Princeton: Films for the Humanities and Sciences, 2000.

Father, Son and Holy War: Trial by Fire (vol 2), Directed by Anand Patwardhan, New York: First Run Icarus Films, 1994.

Fire, Directed by Deepa Mehta, New York: Zeitgeist Films Release, 1996

Two Daughters, Directed by Satyajit Ray, Los Angeles: Embassy Home Entertainment, 1987.

Shattered Pearl, Directed by Nimal Mendis and Ranjani Mendis, New York: First Run Icarus Films, 1991.