



HIST 492 History of India

South Dakota State University
3 credits, TTh 3:00-4:15 pm, Solberg Hall 102
Fall 2005

Dr. K. J. Schmidt, Director of International Affairs and Associate Professor of History

Office: Administration 315 ☎ 688-4913

E-mail: Karl.Schmidt@sdstate.edu

Office Hours: By appointment (contact my secretary, LaRee Grebner, at 688-4913 or lila.grebner@sdstate.edu for an appointment)

Course Description:

Special topics senior-level survey of the history of the Indian subcontinent (an area which historically has encompassed the modern-day states of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh), from the Harappan Culture to the present. Course emphasizes developments in Indian culture, society, and politics, particularly the development of religions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, as well as the impact of Islam, the Mughals, European imperialism, the rise of Indian nationalism, Indian independence, and post-independence foreign and domestic politics. Special coverage will be given to the state and military in ancient India, as well as art and architecture.

Course Pre-requisites:

None

Technology Skills:

This course requires basic word-processing and Internet skills.

Description of Instructional Methods:

I will be using a variety of methods over the course of the semester, including illustrated lectures via PowerPoint, slide presentations, and small-group activity. I encourage discussion in class and will ask many questions of you.

Course Requirements:

Three (3) Essay Examinations (300 points—100 points each)

Annotated Research Bibliography with Introductory Essay (100 points): An annotated research bibliography with an introductory essay on some mutually-agreed-upon topic is required. Details of this assignment will be handed out separately in class.

Participation/Discussion (50 points): Discussions will be held frequently during the course of the semester, based on the material presented in your textbook, video material presented in class, and/or from supplementary readings. Participation is mandatory; a lack thereof on your part will result in reduced grades. Your cooperation in this endeavor will be strongly appreciated (and even rewarded!). I reserve the right to give you a short quiz at the beginning of each discussion period to test your knowledge of the assigned discussion

material; these quizzes will count toward your participation grade. Other in-class discussions and exercises will also count toward participation.

I will evaluate the overall quality of your participation at the end of the semester and will assign a grade accordingly. Quality participation is defined as follows: responding to questions I ask in class in a thoughtful way (simply blurting out answers without being able to substantiate why you came up with the answer in the first place is not considered thoughtful); active participation in group class discussions (not reading the assigned material for the discussion prevents you from being an active participant); and performance on the in-class readings quizzes and other exercises. Excessive absences will also affect your final grade (see policy on Attendance below).

Attendance: Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. You are allowed one skipped day gratis. After that, for every two days you miss, you will be penalized 10% on your final grade. Good attendance is strongly encouraged as you will miss much of value to you and your work in the course. You are responsible for getting notes and assignments for missed days.

Course Grades:

Grades for the course will be assigned based on the possible total of 450 points for the examinations, readings quizzes, editing/research/editing component, and participation and discussion and will be based on these standards: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = less than 60%.

Extra Credit:

There is NO extra credit in this course. Please concentrate your efforts on the assigned materials.

Policies:

Excused Late Work: The only valid excuse for not meeting the requirements of the course is if you are hospitalized for a major illness or accident, or for certain verifiable collegiate extracurricular activities that will take you away from the campus, such as band, sports, etc. In all such cases, you must present a letter from your physician, or from your faculty sponsor, to be exempt from penalty. If you cannot provide such written documentation then see penalties below.

Unexcused Late Work: Failure to complete assignments by the deadlines for unacceptable reasons (conflicts with your employment, work from other classes, oversleeping, transportation problems, fraternity or sorority functions, prearranged trips home, extended vacations, etc.) will be penalized as follows:

10% deducted from the assignment for every day late (this policy covers all graded assignments)

Suggestions:

How Much to Study? I won't mislead you about the workload of this course—it is substantial. Although it will comprise an overview of the history of India, bear in mind that it is a 400-level course. You should expect to average 2-3 hours of work outside of class for every hour in class.

Questions, Comments, Opinions, Criticisms? Your questions, comments, opinions, and criticisms are welcome and encouraged in this course. Your final grade will be based on your performance on the assignments and in class participation, not on your agreement or disagreement with me.

Problems? See me as soon as possible.

NB: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss his/her specific needs. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at ☎ (605) 688-4504 in room 110 West Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Required Textbooks and other materials:

There are four texts for the course. In addition to these texts, students will be expected to read supplementary works available on-line as part of Project South Asia, a digital library of teaching resources for colleges and universities (see projectsouthasia.sdstate.edu).

Hermann Kulke and Dietmar Rothermund, *A History of India*, 4th edition (London and New York: Routledge, 2004).

Karl J. Schmidt, *An Atlas and Survey of South Asian History* (Armonk, New York and London: M.E. Sharpe, 1995).

Romila Thapar, *The Penguin History of Early India* (University of California Press, 2004).

Vidya Dehejia, *Indian Art* (London: Phaidon Press, 1997).

NOTE ON READING AND THE OTHER WORK OF THIS COURSE: Part of the college experience involves reading and studying textbooks. You will be expected to read the texts and other readings thoroughly. I will expect you to master the material at hand. While I realize this course is not your only one this semester, I do expect you to cooperate in the completion of the readings and assignments. If you do not have time this semester to read, study, and do the work that is required, I suggest you take another course.

Course Outline (subject to some change):

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Week 1 | 8/30 Introduction and overview of Indian history and geography
9/1 The Harappan Culture |
| Week 2 | 9/6 Vedic India
9/8 The Epics: The <i>Mahabharata</i> and the <i>Ramayana</i> |
| Week 3 | 9/13 Discussion
9/15 At President Miller's request, I will be away in Poland. A <u>take-home examination</u> will be given. |
| Week 4 | 9/20 Away in Poland. Read <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> (available on-line at: http://projectsouthasia.sdstate.edu/Docs/religions/primarydocs/Hinduism/GITA/index.htm)
9/22 Discussion of the <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> |
| Week 5 | 9/27 Advent of Religious Protest: Jainism and Buddhism
9/29 The Greeks in India/The Mauryan Dynasty |

- Week 6** 10/4 Shungas and Kushanas
 10/6 Rise of the Guptas
- Week 7** 10/11 The Guptas (cont'd.)
 10/13 Harshavardhana
- Week 8** 10/18 Deccan and the Peninsular South
 10/20 Advent of Islam in India and the Delhi Sultanate
- Week 9** 10/25 **Second Examination**
 10/27 The Mughals
- Week 10** 11/1 The Arrival of the Europeans
 11/3 Anglo-French Conflict and the Triumph of British Rule
- Week 11** 11/8 India and British Dominion
 11/10 The War of 1857-58
- Week 12** 11/15 Crown Rule and the Rise of Indian Nationalism
 11/17 Gandhi, Freedom, and Partition; India since 1947

Selected Topics in Indian History

- Week 13** 11/22 The State and Military in Ancient India
 11/24 THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY (no class)
- Week 14** 11/29 Art and Architecture
 12/1 Art and Architecture
- Week 15** 12/6 Hinduism
 12/8 Final Thoughts?
- Week 16** FINAL EXAMINATION WEEK - The **final examination** for this course will be held on **Monday, December 12, 4:00-5:40 pm.**