

## Syllabus

*History of South Asia II*

21:510:281

Spring 2024, Rutgers University-Newark

Tuesday 2:30 – 5:20 p.m.

### INSTRUCTOR

Professor Audrey Truschke  
Department of History  
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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the history of the Indian subcontinent from the advent of the Mughal Empire in 1526 until the present day. We proceed roughly chronologically and analyze some of the major political, social, religious, and cultural developments in early modern, colonial, and independent South Asia. Students will be exposed to primary sources, written by diverse people and translated from numerous languages, as well as the modern politics of history. Students will also learn about the practice of history more broadly, including how to read primary and secondary texts, how to weigh evidence, and how to formulate coherent historical arguments.

### SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

General Information Pages 1–4  
Weekly Schedule, Readings & Assignments Pages 5–7

### PEDAGOGY 101 – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

We meet on Tuesdays 2:30–5:20 p.m. Each class will be partly lecture and partly in-class activities. On-time attendance is a must, and missing even one class is problematic.

Our Canvas class site has a module for each week, with all readings, assignments, and additional information.

The professor wants you to succeed; if you have issues or concerns, please be in touch.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students can expect the following through successful completion of this course:

Acquire basic knowledge of South Asian history from 1526 until the present day, including major political, social, religious, and cultural developments.

Learn strategies for making sense of primary historical sources and archives.

Learning to understand and evaluate scholarly arguments.

Formulate historical questions and identify the means of investigating those queries.

Learn how to assess different types of historical evidence and posit a grounded thesis.

Appreciate the role of history and historical memory in present-day debates.

## READINGS

All readings and links are available on Canvas. You should carefully read / listen to everything for the week assigned, prior to Tuesday class. There are three types of readings:

- (1) Secondary sources: analyses of the past written by modern scholars
- (2) Primary sources: written or made by historical actors at the time
- (3) Present-Day Connections: modern-day reflections on history and why it matters

These three types of materials require different critical reading skills, and all are important for making sense of South Asian history and its relevance today.

## GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Your grade is based on four components:

Class Attendance and Participation	35%
Individual Writing Assignments	25%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	25%

**Class Attendance:** You are required to attend all classes. Your attendance grade includes a map quiz and in-class activities. If you miss class or don't participate, your grade will suffer.

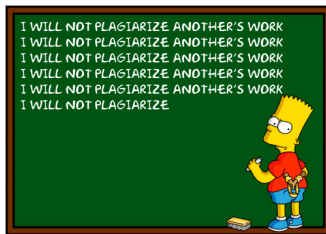
**Exams:** Exams are in-person, closed book, and cannot be made-up. You must pass either the midterm or the final to pass the class.

## CLASS POLICIES

**Absences.** Attendance is required. For excused absences, please contact the professor, in advance if possible. If you find yourself missing class for other reasons, please reach out to the professor to discuss the best way to succeed in this course. Rutgers University policy on absences:

- *Excused Absences:* Recognized grounds for absence include illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, and recognized religious holidays. You must contact the professor, in advance where possible, or absences will be counted as unexcused.
- *Extended Absences:* Any student who misses four or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

**Academic Integrity.** The professor expects full academic honesty from all students. If you plagiarize, cheat, help another student cheat, consult ChatGPT or equivalent, or are otherwise academically dishonest, you will face disciplinary action. Don't want trouble? Don't Cheat. See: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>



Please include the Rutgers honor pledge on all course assignments submitted for grading: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).”

**Censorship and Offense.** The professor does not censor information or images, and history is no walk in the park. As a result, students in this course may well encounter historical texts, depictions, actions, and ideas that they find upsetting. This includes, but is not limited to, criticisms of religions, advocating for or engaging in ethnic cleansing, Islamophobia, mass violence, explicit sexuality, swastikas, pro-caste rhetoric, fascism, and misogyny. Please remember that it is okay to feel offended. We will discuss in class how to sensitively address such feelings without whitewashing the past (or the present).

**Electronics.** Electronics—including laptops, tablets, and phones—are not allowed in class. I encourage notetaking by hand.

**Intellectual Property.** Lectures, powerpoints, assignments, unpublished work, and other materials utilized in this course are protected by United States copyright laws as well as Rutgers University policy. You are not permitted to share any of these without written consent from the professor. Similarly, all original work that you produce for this course is covered by copyright protections, and the professor will not share your work without your written consent.

**Late Work.** All late work incurs a penalty of one letter grade (10% reduction) for every 24 hours late, up to 4 days late.

## SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

**Counseling Center.** The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: [counseling@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:counseling@newark.rutgers.edu) or (973) 353-5805. If students are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *Sanvello* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support. Visit <https://my.rutgers.edu/>, click on Sanvello: Wellness @ RUN, and log in with your netid to begin your journey toward wellness.

**Crisis and Concerns.** The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a plan of support plan and address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Connect with the CARE Team by using the following link: [tinyurl.com/RUNCARE](https://tinyurl.com/RUNCARE) or emailing [careteam@rutgers.edu](mailto:careteam@rutgers.edu).

**Disabilities.** The Office of Disability Services (ODS) works with students with medical, physical, and/or mental conditions who encounter disabling barriers in order to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations for access. Students who have completed the process with ODS and have approved accommodations are provided a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) specific to each course. To initiate accommodations for their course students must both provide the LOA to and have a conversation with the course instructor about the accommodations. More information can be found at [ods.rutgers.edu](https://ods.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or [ods@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:ods@newark.rutgers.edu).

**Food.** PantryRUN, the campus food pantry, helps students who have difficulty affording enough healthy food to remain focused on their studies and stay healthy. You can find hours and information here: <https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/pantryrun>.

**Temporary Conditions/Injuries.** The Division of Student Affairs can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request for assistance at: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

**Writing Center.** The Rutgers University-Newark Writing Center provides tutoring for students who want to strengthen their reading, writing, and research skills. They offer individual sessions and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers University-Newark campus; they are offering remote tutoring. They can be contacted at (973) 353-5847 and [nwc@rutgers.edu](mailto:nwc@rutgers.edu). Also see: <https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>.

**Week 1, 1/16 Starting Points: India, South Asia, and Babur**

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Asher and Talbot, *India Before Europe*, 1–15 and “Babur and Humayun”  
Primary Source: *Baburnama*, Longman, trans. Thackston, 16–20  
Present-Day Connection: Dale, excerpt on “Babri Masjid and Timurid Ideology”

**Week 2, 1/23 Building and Resisting the Mughal Empire**

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Eaton, *India in the Persianate Age*, 215–39  
Sunil Khilnani’s 15-minute podcast on Malik Ambar, from “Incarnations”  
Primary Source: *Jahangirnama*, Longman, trans. Thackston, 20–27  
Present-Day Connection: Mad Mughal Meme’s Instagram account (peruse)

\*map quiz in class

\*Jan 26, Primary source Analysis 1, *Jahangirnama* (due on Canvas 11:59 pm)

**Week 3, 1/30 Social Change and Religion in Early Modern India**

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Asher and Talbot, *India Before Europe*, “Pious Constructions”  
Eaton, *India in the Persianate Age*, 361–68  
Primary Source: Wright, “History in the Abstract,” part II  
Present-Day Connection: Krishnan, “Casteism I See in America”

**Week 4, 2/6 Aurangzeb and Shudra Kings**

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Eaton, *India in the Persianate Age*, 697–724  
Truschke, “Much Maligned Mughal”  
Primary Source: Shahaji, “Take my Wife” in Rao and Shulman (trans), *Classical Telugu Poetry*, 256–78  
Present-Day Connection: Lal, “Shivaji and the Politics of History”

**Week 5, 2/13 Long Eighteenth Century: Mughal Demise and Regional Flourishing**

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Fisher, *Mughal Empire*, 209–18  
“Rise of Regional Powers”  
Primary Source: Shah Abdul Latif poetry excerpts  
Present-Day Connection: Mashal, Yasir, and Bhagat, “India’s Funeral Pyres”

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**Week 6, 2/20      British East India Company and Hindu Reform Movements**

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Bose and Jalal, *Modern South Asia*, 45–52

Metcalf and Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, 56–68

Sunil Khilnani's podcasts on Sir William Jones and Rammohan Roy, from "Incarnations"

Primary Source: The Second Anniversary Discourse of Sir William Jones (1785)

Primary Source: Rammohan Roy, "Introduction" to Ishopanishad, 28–30

\*February 23, Primary source Analysis 2, Jones and Roy (due on Canvas 11:59 pm)

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**Week 7, 2/27      The Sepoy Rebellion and the Dawn of the British Raj**

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Metcalf and Metcalf, *Concise History of Modern India*, 92–107

Sunil Khilnani's 15-minute podcast on Lakshmibai, from "Incarnations"

Primary Source: Queen Victoria's 1858 Proclamation

Present-Day Connection: Kapadia, "Hidden under Meghan Markle's Givenchy veil was Britain bloody history of colonialism"

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**Week 8, 3/5      Midterm**

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NO READINGS

\*Midterm Exam – In-class

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**Week 9      March 12: Spring Break, NO CLASS**

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**Week 10, 3/19      Knowing Indians and Traveling Abroad**

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Bose and Jalal, *Modern South Asia*, 78–85

Bahadur, "How could I write about women whose existence is barely acknowledged?"

Primary Source: Vivekananda's 1893 Speech in Chicago

Primary Source: Infant Marriage and Enforced Widowhood (Rukhmabai, June 1885)

Present-Day Connection: Poyam, "Adivasis demand a 'Tribal Religion' census category"

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**Week 11, 3/26      Advocating for Independence, Nationalism, and Equal Rights**

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Lal, "Mahatma Gandhi"

Sunil Khilnani's 15-minute podcast on Ambedkar, from "Incarnations"

15 Minute History: The End of Colonialism in South Asia

Primary Source: Gandhi's *Experiments with Truth*, The Birth of Khadi, 441–442

Primary Source: Gandhi's 1930 letter to Lord Irwin

Primary Source: Gandhi's 1942 Quit India speeches

Present-Day Connection: Kapur, "The Crown' skips over the British royal family's colonial legacy"

\*March 29, Primary source Analysis 3, Mahatma Gandhi (due on Canvas 11:59 pm)

**Week 12, 4/2 Partition: The Brutal Idea and the Brutal Reality**

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Butalia, *The Other Side of Silence*, 3–26 (doubles as Present-day Connection)  
Sunil Khilnani’s 15-minute podcasts on Jinnah and Manto, from “Incarnations”  
Primary Source (short story): Manto, “Toba Tek Singh,” 212–220  
Primary Source: 1947 Partition Archive (peruse)

**Week 13, 4/9 New Nation States 1947–1990**

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Bose and Jalal, *Modern South Asia*, 167–81  
Primary Source: Mandal Commission’s 1980 Report, Summary  
Present-Day Connection: Sikh and Kaur, “Why India Is Targeting Sikhs at Home and Around the World”

**Week 14, 4/16 The Hindu Rashtra**

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“Brief History of Hindutva”  
“The Kashmir Conflict, Explained” (watch)  
Primary Source: Savarkar excerpts from Jaffrelot’s *Hindu Nationalism: A Reader*, 85–96  
Present-Day Connection: Subramanian, “When the Hindu Right Came for Bollywood”

\*April 19, Encyclopedia Article (due on Canvas 11:59 pm)

**Week 15, 4/23 Climate Change and Everyday Life in Contemporary South Asia**

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Amrith, *Unruly Waters*, chap. 9  
Other readings TBD

**Final Exam TBA**