

SYLLABUS

History 293: Ancient and Medieval India
Rhodes College, Fall Semester 2005

Professor Lynn Zastoupil

Office: 206 Buckman

Office Hours: M W F 11:45-12:45 (and by appointment)

Telephone: 3654; 276-0940 (home)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course explores India from the era of the Indus civilization through the death of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in 1707 CE. Topics include the Harappa culture, Aryan migrations and emergence of Hinduism, Gangetic culture and rise of Mauryan and Guptan empires, Islamic invasions and creation of the Delhi sultanate, and the Vijayanagar empire. The course concludes with a close examination of the rise and fall of the Mughal Empire, one of the world's greatest empires. Considerable attention will also be devoted to religious, social, and cultural developments, including the evolution of Hinduism, the caste system, Islamic culture in India, religious reform movements, and architecture.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is a lecture-discussion course in which significant readings will be assigned nearly every day for class discussion. Students are expected to attend class regularly and discuss assigned readings in an informed and intelligent manner. Participation in class discussion will be graded. Those who find it difficult to participate in class discussions may also periodically submit summaries of the assigned readings, which, if thoroughly done, will help raise class participation grades. There are two writing assignments. The first, due early in the semester, is a brief (1000 word) research assignment based on internet resources. The second, due near the end of the term, is a longer (2500-3000 word) research essay, requiring use of both internet and traditionally printed sources. The topic for the first assignment will be distributed by the professor; the second will be chosen by each student in consultation with the professor. **ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON TIME: LATE ESSAYS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REDUCED BY ONE LETTER GRADE. There are no exceptions to this rule.** There will also be two examinations, both of which will be largely essay in nature. Final grades will be determined as possible: class participation – 20%; first essay – 10% ; mid-term examination – 20%; research essay – 25%; final examination – 25%.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

H. Kulke and D. Rothermund, *A History of India*, 4th ed.

D. N. Jha, *The Myth of the Holy Cow*

A. L. Basham, ed., *A Cultural History of India*

Barbara Stoler Miller, ed., *Theater of Memory*

Peter Jackson, *The Delhi Sultanate*

John F. Richards, *The Mughal Empire*

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week I Introduction

Aug. 25 Introduction: Geography, Climate, Peoples

Week II Indus River Civilization

Aug. 30 Pre-, Proto-, and Early History (Kulke & Rothermund [KR], 21-23)
Sept. 1 Mature Harappan Civilization (KR, 17-21, 23-29; Basham, Chpt. 2)

Week III Vedic India

Sept. 6 Indo-Aryans (KR, 31-40, 43-48, 50-53)
Sept. 8 Caste and Cows (KR, 41-42, 48-49; Jha, Preface, Introd., & Chpt. 1)

Week IV Gangetic Civilization I

Sept. 13 Mauryan Empire (KR 53-54, 56-84; Basham, 38-45)
Sept. 15 Trade and Religion (KR, 54-56, 85-87; Basham, Chpt. 30; Jha, Chpt. 2)

FIRST ESSAY DUE AT CLASS TIME SEPTEMBER 15

Week V Gangetic Civilization II

Sept. 20 Gupta Empire (KR, 85-97)
Sept. 22 Kalidasa and the Classical Age of Sanskrit (Miller, 3-41, 85-176)

Week VI South India

Sept. 27 Regional Kingdoms (KR, 98-108, 119-27, 153-61)
Sept. 29 Bhakti, Temples, and Pilgrims (KR, 138-46)

Week VII Early Medieval India

Oct. 4 Kings, Temples, and Cults (KR, 109-19, 127-40, 147-53; Basham, Chpt. 18)
Oct. 6 **Temple visit**

Week VIII Exam and Islam

Oct. 11 **Midterm examination**
Oct. 13 Islam and South Asia (Jackson, 3-22)

Week IX Early Delhi Sultanate

Oct. 18 **Fall break**
Oct. 20 Conquest and Rule (Jackson, Chpts. 5, 7)

Week X Later Delhi Sultanate

- Oct. 25 Expansion and Consolidation (Jackson, Chpts. 10, 12)
Oct. 27 Hindu Collaboration and Resistance (Jackson, Chpt. 14; KR, 183-95)

Week XI Mongols and Mughals

- Nov. 1 Mongols and India (Jackson, Chpts. 11, 15)
Nov. 3 Origins of Mughal Empire (Jackson, 321-25; Richards, 6-12)

Week XII Mughal Empire

- Nov. 8 Akbar (Richards, 55-56)
Nov. 10 Jahangir and Shah Jahan (Richards, 114-18, 158-64)

Week XIII Golden Age of the Mughals

- Nov. 15 Political and Fiscal Systems (Richards, 12, 19-28, 41-49, 56-78, 103-105, 138-50)
Nov. 17 Religion and Culture (Richards, 30-31, 34-41, 96-103, 121-27)

Week XIV Aurangzeb

- Nov. 22 Deccan Wars (Richards, 205-38)
Nov. 24 **Thanksgiving recess**

Week XV Aurangzeb and Mughal Decline

- Nov. 29 Military, Political & Economic Factors (Richards, 239-50, 282-97)
Dec. 1 Religious Issues (Richards, 171-84)

Week XVI End of the Mughals

- Dec. 6 Bahadur Shah and Others (Richards, 253-61)