

SYLLABUS

History 293: Ancient and Medieval India
Rhodes College, Spring Semester 2008
Professor Lynn Zastoupil
Office: 206 Buckman
Office Hours: TR 2:00-3:00 (and by appointment)
Telephone: 3654

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 and Islamicate 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 to be prepared to 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 will be two examinations, both of which will be largely essay in nature. There are also two writing assignments. The first is a short (750-1000 words) essay designed to help students develop ideas for a longer (2500-3000 words) research paper. The first is due early in the semester and will involve use of internet sites and encyclopedia articles. The second, longer essay will require more extensive research using traditional printed sources and is due near the end of the semester. **BOTH ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON TIME: LATE ESSAYS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REDUCED BY ONE LETTER GRADE. There are no exceptions to this rule.** The professor reserves the right to assign a failing grade for the assignment, or for the entire course, for any misuse of sources.

Final grades will be determined as follows: class participation – 20%; first essay – 5% ; mid-term examination – 20%; second essay – 25%; final examination – 30%.

Extra credit: During the course of the semester students will have the opportunity to earn extra credit by attending approved events, such as lectures, movies, and restaurant meals. Extra credit will also be awarded for book reviews (maximum of two) and visiting appropriate off-campus sites, such as the India Cultural Center and Temple in Eads. The amount of extra credit will vary for each activity and will be announced in advance.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

H. Kulke and D. Rothermund, *A History of India*, 4th ed.
Michael Carrithers, *Buddha*
D. N. Jha, *The Myth of the Holy Cow*
Barbara Stoler Miller, ed., *Theater of Memory*
Paul Younger, *The Home of Dancing Sivan*
John F. Richards, *The Mughal Empire*

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week I Indus Civilization

Jan. 10 Indus Civilization (KR, 17-29)

Week II Vedic Civilization

Jan. 15 Indo-Aryans (KR, 31-40, 45-48, 50-53)
Jan. 17 Caste and Cows (KR, 41-42, 48-49; Jha, Preface, Introd., & Chpt. 1)

Week III Gangetic Civilization I

Jan. 22 Mauryan Empire (KR 53-54, 56-84)
Jan. 24 Trade and Religion (KR, 54-56, 85-87; Jha, Chpt. 2)

Week IV Age of Buddha

Jan. 29 **Discussion** (Carrithers, all)
Jan. 31 Gupta Empire (KR, 85-93)

Week V Gangetic Civilization II

Feb. 5 Gupta Society (KR, 93-97)
Feb. 7 **Discussion** (Miller, 3-41, 85-176)

Week VI South Indian Civilization

Feb. 12 Pallavas and Colas (KR, 98-108)
Feb. 14 Temples and Bhakti (KR, 138-46)

FIRST ESSAY DUE AT CLASS TIME FEBRUARY 12

Week VII Home of the Dancing Sivan

Feb. 19 **Discussion** (Younger, pp. 3-77)
Feb. 21 **Discussion** (Younger, pp. 79-158)

Week VIII Early Medieval India

Feb. 26 Kings, Temples, and Cults (KR, 109-19, 127-38, 147-53)
Feb. 28 **Midterm examination**

SPRING BREAK MARCH 3-7

Week IX Islam and South Asia

- March 11 Islam comes to India
March 13 Early Sultanate (KR, 162-66)

Week X Delhi Sultanate

- March 18 Later Sultanate (KR, 166-70; P. Jackson, *Delhi Sultanate*, chpt. 14, on reserve))
March 20 **Easter recess**

Week XI Emergence of a Muslim Community

- March 25 Sufism (R. Eaton, *Rise of Islam and Bengal Frontier*, 113-19, on reserve)
March 27 **Discussion:** P. Wagoner, "Sultan among Hindu Kings," *American Historical Review* 55, 4 (1996), 851-80; KR, 181-95)

Week XII Mughal Empire

- April 1 Early Mughals
April 3 Golden Age of the Mughals

Week XIII Understanding the Mughals

- April 8 **Discussion:** (Richards, 12, 19-28, 41-49, 56-78, 103-105, 138-50)
April 10 **Discussion:** (Richards, 30-31, 34-41, 79-93, 96-103, 121-27)

Week XIV Aurangzeb

- April 15 Aurangzeb
April 17 Shivaji (J. Laine, *Shivaji: Hindu King in Islamic India*, chpt. 2, on reserve)

Week XV Mughal Decline

- April 22 Marathas
April 24 Aurangzeb and Mughal Decline

SECOND ESSAYS DUE APRIL 21, 5:00 p.m.