

## SYLLABUS

History 293: Ancient and Medieval India

Rhodes College, Fall Semester 2010

Professor Lynn Zastoupil

Office: 206 Buckman

Office Hours: T 12:45-1:45, W, F 10:50-11:50 (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 frequently 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.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

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

Aug. 26 Indus Civilization

### Week II Vedic Civilization

Aug. 31 Indo-Aryans  
Sept. 2 Caste and Cows (Jha, Preface, Introd., & Chpt. 1)

### Week III Gangetic Civilization I

Sept. 7 Mauryan Empire (R. Thapar, "Asoka and Buddhism," *Past and Present*,  
18 (1960): 43-51 [JSTOR])  
Sept. 9 Trade and Religion (Jha, Chpt. 2)

### Week IV Age of Buddha

Sept. 14 **Discussion** (Carrithers, all)  
Sept. 16 Gupta Empire

### Week V Gangetic Civilization II

Sept. 21 Gupta Society  
Sept. 23 **Discussion** (Miller, 3-41, 85-176)

### Week VI South Indian Civilization

Sept. 28 Pallavas and Colas  
Sept. 30 Temples and Bhakti

## FIRST ESSAY DUE AT CLASS TIME SEPTEMBER 28

### Week VII Home of the Dancing Sivan

Oct. 5 **Discussion** (Younger, pp. 3-77)  
Oct. 7 **Discussion** (Younger, pp. 79-158)

### Week VIII Early Medieval India

Oct. 12 Kings, Temples, and Cults  
Oct. 14 **Midterm examination**

Week IX Islam and South Asia

Oct. 19          Fall break  
Oct. 21          Islam comes to India

Week X Delhi Sultanate

Oct. 26          Early Sultanate  
Oct. 28          Later Sultanate (P. Jackson, *Delhi Sultanate*, Chap. 14 [Moodle])

Week XI Emergence of a Muslim Community

Nov. 2          Sufism (R. Eaton, *Rise of Islam and Bengal Frontier*, 113-19 [Moodle])  
Nov. 4          **Discussion:** P. Wagoner, "Sultan among Hindu Kings," *Journal of Asian Studies*, 55, 4 (1996), 851-80 [JSTOR])

Week XII Mughal Empire

Nov. 9          Early Mughals  
Nov. 11          Golden Age of the Mughals

Week XIII Understanding the Mughals

Nov. 16          **Discussion:** (Richards, 12, 19-28, 41-49, 56-78, 103-105, 138-50)  
Nov. 18          **Discussion:** (Richards, 30-31, 34-41, 79-93, 96-103, 121-27)

Week XIV Aurangzeb

Nov. 23          Aurangzeb  
Nov. 25          Thanksgiving recess

Week XV Marathas

Nov. 30          Shivaji  
Dec. 2          Marathas

**SECOND ESSAY DUE NOVEMBER 30, 5:00 p.m.**

Week XVI Mughal Decline

Dec. 7          Aurangzeb and Mughal Decline