SYLLABUS

History 293: Ancient and Medieval India
Rhodes College, Fall Semester 2006
Professor Lynn Zastoupil
   Office: 206 Buckman
   Office Hours: M W F 10:30-11:30 (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 Gupta 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 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 (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%.

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
Aug. 24  Indus Civilization (KR, 17-29)

Week II Vedic Civilization
Aug. 31  Caste and Cows (KR, 41-42, 48-49; Jha, Preface, Introd., & Chpt. 1)

Week III  Gangetic Civilization I
Sept. 5  Mauryan Empire (KR 53-54, 56-84)
Sept. 7  Trade and Religion (KR, 54-56, 85-87; Jha, Chpt. 2)

Week IV  Age of Buddha
Sept. 12  Discussion (Carrithers, all)
Sept. 14  Gupta Empire (KR, 85-93)

Week V  Gangetic Civilization II
Sept. 19  Gupta Society (KR, 93-97)
Sept. 21  Discussion (Miller, 3-41, 85-176)

FIRST ESSAY DUE AT CLASS TIME SEPTEMBER 19

Week VI  South Indian Civilization
Sept. 26  Pallavas and Colas (KR, 98-108)
Sept. 28  Temples and Bhakti (KR, 138-46)

Week VII Home of the Dancing Sivan
Oct. 3  Discussion (Younger, pp. 3-77)
Oct. 5  Discussion (Younger, pp. 79-158)

Week VIII  Early Medieval India
Oct. 12  Midterm examination

Week IX  Islam and South Asia
Oct. 17  Fall break
Oct. 19  Islam comes to India
Week X  Delhi Sultanate

Oct. 24  Early Sultanate (KR, 162-66)
Oct. 26  Later Sultanate (KR, 166-70)

Week XI  Emergence of a Muslim Community

Oct. 31  Sufism (R. Eaton, *Rise of Islam and Bengal Frontier*, 113-19, on reserve)

Week XII  Mughal Empire

Nov. 7  Early Mughals
Nov. 9  Golden Age of the Mughals

Week XIII  Understanding the Mughals

Nov. 14  **Discussion:** (Richards, 12, 19-28, 41-49, 56-78, 103-105, 138-50)
Nov. 16  **Discussion:** (Richards, 30-31, 34-41, 79-93, 96-103, 121-27)

Week XIV  Aurangzeb

Nov. 21  Aurangzeb
Nov. 23  **Thanksgiving recess**

Week XV  Mughal Decline

Nov. 28  Marathas
Nov. 30  Aurangzeb and Mughal Decline

**SECOND ESSAYS DUE AT CLASS TIME NOVEMBER 30**

Week XVI  Review

Dec. 5  Wrap up and review