

**SYLLABUS**  
**Modern India**  
**HIST 387, 004**  
**George Mason University**  
**Department of History and Art History**  
**Class Day and Time: Tuesday 4: 30 to 7:10 PM**  
**Location: 124, Robinson B**  
**(Room could change-please keep checking for my update)**

**Professor: Anita Nahal, Ph.D.**  
**202-806-7887 (office), Email: [aarya2@gmu.edu](mailto:aarya2@gmu.edu)**  
**[anahal@howard.edu](mailto:anahal@howard.edu)**  
**Office hours: Tuesday 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM**  
**Location:**

**Course:**

**Introduction:**

What is “Modern” India? How do we define it? When did “Modern” India begin? India is perceived as a very interesting, complicated and exotic country gripped in a maze of myriad diversities and contrasts. The old and the new, the “modern” and the traditional, all co-exist in the world’s largest democracy. How did the British come to rule over such a large diverse population rooted in great developments, traditions and various cultures and religions? How did the Indians develop strategies to secure independence from British rule? What was the elective charm of Gandhi that captured the imagination of poor Indians and led the British to leave India? What are the social, cultural, religious, gender and caste divisions that existed, and still exist, juxtaposed in a “modern” India lending complexity to this democratic nation that continues to grow in stature in the world? Where does India stand today on issues such as foreign policy, cross-border conflict, terrorism, environment, women’s development, poverty, population, information technology, and other relevant issues of domestic concern to India and to the larger world? And what are some of the core philosophies that are carrying this nation forward? These are other questions will form the bulk of this course. No pre requisites required.

**Goals/Expected Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the class students should:

- 1) Learn about the History of India and the forces that shape India today.
- 2) Study the developments that have taken place in the economic, political, social, cultural and religious fabric of India since independence in 1947.
- 3) Study the dynamics of the multiple forces that pull India in many directions; domestically and abroad.
- 4) Analyze the solutions that India and Indians have attempted as responses to various needs and challenges of the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

- 5) Investigate the numerous layers of the Indian fabric to get a better understanding of its diversity.
- 6) Study the way other nations view India and India's responses to outside views and perceptions.
- 7) Understand where India and Indians are attempting to proceed from this point onwards.
- 8) Enjoy learning about India, a learning that remains with the student beyond the classroom setting

### **Suggested Student Learning Techniques:**

- 1) Don't try to rote memorize. Try to understand the chapters in the required books. Underline a lot and underline in different color pens/pencils so as to distinguish the different points.
- 2) Make a list of questions after you read each chapter to ask the professor in class and for class discussion. Test yourself to see how many of those questions you can answer yourself.
- 3) Make a chart of the points learned in each chapter and in each class. We will discuss in class as to how to prepare such charts.
- 4) Practice identifying on blank maps the relevant cities, rivers, mountains, regions in India. Students are encouraged to review the map of India and familiarize themselves with the geography of the country/region. An understanding of the geography of a country/region greatly assists in the grasp of the history, the people, and the issues affecting the area in contemporary times.
- 5) Find time to discuss with class mates about what you are learning in class. Discussion with others generally brings forth new or different ideas that you may not have thought about.
- 6) After each class, read your class notes at home and prepare a chart of all points learned and also prepare lists of all names learned or new words with their meanings.
- 7) Immerse yourself in learning about India by visiting Indian newspaper websites. Make points of anything new that you learn for discussion in class.
- 8) Interact with people of Indian origin and discuss your course with them. Ask them questions and see if you get answers that you were not aware of.
- 9) Visit the embassy of the India in Washington, DC and acquire tourist information brochures, etc. from them. The embassy holds cultural events and have cultural newsletters. Ask the embassy officials to put you on the mailing list.
- 10) There are a number of temples, mosques and gurdwaras in the DC metropolitan region. Their exact locations and addresses may be found on the internet. Try to visit these places and discuss in class your observations or any questions that might have.

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### **Points To Remember:**

- 1) This is going to be a seminar style course with an emphasis on Socratic (please see explanation below) style questioning. Students will be expected to read the week's assigned reading PRIOR to class in order to participate in class discussions or clarify questions/points. Students are required to make a list of words, phrases, sentences, names or anything that they find interesting, and would like to know more about, in each chapter for discussion in class.

- 2) Students are required to watch any three movies: *On the Other End of the Line*, *Bend It Like Beckham*, *Slum dog Millionaire*, *Gandhi* and *Water*. Discussion on the movies will take place in class on October 20, 2009.
- 3) For any absence from class, students need to make a prior request, except for an emergency.
- 4) Failure to take the mid term quiz will result in one grade lower, and failure to submit the take home final examination will result in a grade of “F”. A make-up exam will be given only under special circumstances.
- 5) Please respect and give due consideration to others in class. All cell phones, pagers, radios; iPods, etc. need to be turned off in class.
- 6) All students are subject to the policies and regulations of George Mason’s Honor Code. Please familiarize yourself with the code available at: <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/unilife/deanofstudents/honorcode/>. Cheating or plagiarism (presenting someone else’s ideas or words as your own without due acknowledgment), among other things, violates the Honor Code. Students caught cheating or submitting plagiarized material will be notified to the required authorities.
- 7) All students need to have a GMU email account. I will send important messages concerning the course, classes, etc. through the email and students are responsible for checking their email account frequently.
- 8) Accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities in accordance with law and university policies. Students requiring accommodations must register with the University’s Disability Resource Center and produce documentation as soon as possible in order for me to make the necessary arrangements.
- 9) If English is your second language, you are encouraged to discuss with me and show me a sample of your writing. If need be, I will recommend that you work with the Writing Center.
- 10) PLEASE NOTE:

Last Day to Add (Full-Semester Course):	September 15, 2009
Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course):	October 2, 2009
Selective Withdrawal Period (Full-Semester Course):	October 5 – October 30, 2009

*Socratic Style Questions:* “The practice involves asking a series of questions surrounding a central issue, and answering questions of the others involved. Generally this involves the defense of one point of view against another and is oppositional. The best way to ‘win’ is to make the opponent contradict themselves in some way that proves the inquirer’s own point.” [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socratic\\_method](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socratic_method)

“A pedagogical technique in which a teacher does not give information directly but instead asks a series of questions, with the result that the student comes either to the desired knowledge by answering the questions or to a deeper awareness of the limits of knowledge.” <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Socratic+method>

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### Required Reading:

Edward Luce. *Inspite Of The Gods: The Strange Rise of Modern India*. New York: Doubleday, 2007

### Recommended Reading:

AZADI—(freedom)—a Novel by Chaman Nahal  
The Gandhi Quartet—Four Novels by Chaman Nahal  
India – What can it teach us? – Max Mueller  
India: a million mutinies now – VS Naipaul  
Alberuni’s India – er, – Al Beruni  
India: A history – John Keay  
A two volume history of India – Romila Thapar and Percival Spear  
The Idea of India – Sunil Khilnani  
The Argumentative Indian – Amartya Sen  
Wings of Fire – APJ Abdul Kalam  
Ignited Minds  
Being Indian  
A source book of Indian philosophy – S Radhakrishnan  
India My Love – Osho  
India – from Midnight to Millennium – Sashi Tharoor  
India Unbound – Gurucharan Das  
The Discovery of India – by Jawaharlal Nehru  
The British Rule in India – by Karl Marx  
The Wonder that was India – A L Basham  
Imagining India – Ronald Inden  
The Vedas, Bhagavad Gita,  
Engaging India – Strobe Talbott  
Swami and Friends – RK Narayan  
The Vendor of Sweets – RK Narayan  
The Great Indian Novel – Shashi Tharoor  
Sardar Sarovar: The Independent Review – Bradford Morse  
Sourcebook of Indian Tradition – Ainslee Embree  
Early history of India (and other volumes) by Romila Thapar  
The world is flat – Thomas L. Friedman  
Social Background Of Indian Nationalism – by A R Desai  
The Age of Kali – William Dalrymple  
The Burdens of Democracy – Pratap Bhanu Mehta  
Why Ethnic Parties Succeed in India – Kanchan Chandra  
India’s Economic Reforms – Jagdish Bhagwati  
The Best of R K Laxman  
Midnight’s Children – Salman Rushdie  
In Light Of India – Octavio Paz  
Tamas – Bhisham Sahni  
Freedom at Midnight – Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins  
India After Gandhi—Ranjit Guha  
India—Studies in the History of an Idea—Irfan habib  
Nehru—Shashi Tharoor  
Gandhi—Stanley Wolpert  
Modern India—Sumit Sarkar

## Grading Structure/Assessment Modes:

Mid term Quiz-----20%

Final exam---60%

Class attendance and discussion---20%

## Online Newspapers and Websites:

- 1) [www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com) (India)
- 2) [www.hindustantimes.com](http://www.hindustantimes.com) (India)
- 3) [www.rediff.com](http://www.rediff.com) (India)

## Class Schedule:

### September 1, 2009: Class One: Introduction.

*Will discuss the course and readings and a background into the history, geography and current affairs in India. A short discussion on "What is History" will also take place. Students are advised to buy on line a used copy of What is History by E. H. Carr. The book is a classic on what exactly constitutes history? What is subjectivity and objectivity in History and so forth.*

### September 8, 2009: Class Two: What is India?

- 1) *In Spite Of The Gods: Introduction chapter*
- 2) *Shivaji and Aurenzeb--* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBJ5Pyo8OHs>
- 3) *Defeat of Tipu Sultan--* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBbBsCkmrCk&feature=related>
- 4) *Maharaja Ranjit Singh--* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npHqgIdFZq0>

Students are required to make a list of words, phrases, sentences, names or anything that they find interesting and would like to know more about in each chapter for discussion in class.

### September 15, 2009: Class Three: What is India?—cont.

- 1) *In Spite Of The Gods: Introduction chapter*
- 2) *Rani of Jhansi--* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeVu-xEEA8U>
- 3) *Dandi March--* [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCrno\\_NZcjo&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCrno_NZcjo&feature=related)
- 4) *Last Days of the Raj--*  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVOR1Qlr\\_nc&feature=Playlist&p=937F5ADBE1EBB18C&index=4&playnext=2&playnext\\_from=PL](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVOR1Qlr_nc&feature=Playlist&p=937F5ADBE1EBB18C&index=4&playnext=2&playnext_from=PL)

Students are required to make a list of words, phrases, sentences, names or anything that they find interesting and would like to know more about in each chapter for discussion in class.

### September 22, 2009: Class Four: Economy

- 1) *In Spite Of The Gods: Chapter 1: Global and Medieval*
- 2) *Internet Source: Permanent or Zamindari Settlement*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permanent\\_Settlement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permanent_Settlement)

3) *Youtube videos*

Students are required to make a list of words, phrases, sentences, names or anything that they find interesting and would like to know more about in each chapter for discussion in class

**September 29, 2009: Class Five: Bureaucracy**

1) *In Spite Of The Gods: Chapter 2: The Burra Sabibs*

2) *Internet Source: Preamble of the Constitution of India*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preamble\\_to\\_the\\_Constitution\\_of\\_India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preamble_to_the_Constitution_of_India)

3) *Internet Source: Directive Principles of State Constitution*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directive\\_Principles\\_in\\_India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directive_Principles_in_India)

4) *Youtube videos*

Students are required to make a list of words, phrases, sentences, names or anything that they find interesting and would like to know more about in each chapter for discussion in class.

**October 6, 2009: Class Six: Affirmative Action**

1) *In Spite Of The Gods: Chapter 3: Battles of The Righteous*

2) *Internet Source: Bhakti Movement*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhakti\\_movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhakti_movement)

3) *Internet Source: Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Tribes*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scheduled\\_castes\\_and\\_scheduled\\_tribes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scheduled_castes_and_scheduled_tribes)

4) *Internet Source: Mandal Commission*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandal\\_Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandal_Commission)

5) *Internet Source: Dalit Panther Movement*

[http://www.itsabouttimebpp.com/Announcements/Daliti\\_Panthers\\_in\\_India.html](http://www.itsabouttimebpp.com/Announcements/Daliti_Panthers_in_India.html)

6) *Youtube videos*

Students are required to make a list of words, phrases, sentences, names or anything that they find interesting and would like to know more about in each chapter for discussion in class.

**October 13—Off for Columbus Day**

**October 20, 2009: Class Seven:**

**MID TERM QUIZ and Discussion on the movies: *On the Other End of the Line, Bend It Like Beckham, Slum dog Millionaire Gandhi and Water.***

**October 27, 2009: Class Eight: Communalism and Hindus**

1) *In Spite Of The Gods: Chapter 4: The Imaginary Horse*

2) *Internet Source: Nathuram Godse's speech in court*

<http://shaunak.wordpress.com/2005/09/27/nathuram-godses-speech-in-court/>

3) Internet Source: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashtriya\\_Swayamsevak\\_Sangh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashtriya_Swayamsevak_Sangh)

4) Youtube videos

Students are required to make a list of words, phrases, sentences, names or anything that they find interesting and would like to know more about in each chapter for discussion in class.

### **November 3, 2009: Class Nine: The Congress party and Politics**

1) *In Spite Of The Gods: Chapter 5: Long live The Sycophants!*

2) Internet Source: History of the Indian National Congress

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian\\_National\\_Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_National_Congress)

3) Internet Source: Congress Party Manifesto 2009 Elections

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/13596859/Congress-Partys-Manifesto-for-India-Elections-2009>

4) Internet Source: Sonia Gandhi's Biography

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonia\\_Gandhi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonia_Gandhi)

5) Youtube videos

Students are required to make a list of words, phrases, sentences, names or anything that they find interesting and would like to know more about in each chapter for discussion in class.

### **November 10, 2009: Class Ten: Muslims in India**

1) *In Spite of The Gods: Chapter 6: Many Crescents*

2) Internet Source: Views of Sir Sayed Ahmed Khan

<http://www.learndeen.com/jm/blog/85-razi-blog/167-sir-syed-ahmed-religious-view.html?5e79d1c535618125fe5727bbc91646f1=b7fab7144134965450a16d7cbd411c9e>

3) Internet Source: Establishment of All India Muslim League

<http://www.storyofpakistan.com/articletext.asp?artid=A031>

4) Internet Source: Khilafat Movement 1920-21

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khilafat\\_Movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khilafat_Movement)

5) Internet Source: Muhammad Iqbal

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad\\_Iqbal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Iqbal)

6) Internet Source: Lahore Resolution demanding Pakistan, 1940

<http://pakistanimes.net/2005/03/23/specialreport.htm>

7) Internet Source: Godhra Burning Train

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Godhra\\_train\\_burning](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Godhra_train_burning)

8) Internet Source: Riots in Gujarat 2002

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002\\_Gujarat\\_violence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_Gujarat_violence)

9) Youtube videos

Students are required to make a list of words, phrases, sentences, names or anything that they find interesting and would like to know more about in each chapter for discussion in class.

### **November 17, 2009: Class Eleven: Foreign Policy (US, China and India)**

1) *In Spite Of The Gods: Chapter 7: A Triangular Dance*

- 2) *Internet Source: Non Aligned Movement*  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Aligned\\_Movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement)
- 3) *Internet Source: Sino-Indian War, 1962*  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Indian\\_War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Indian_War)
- 4) *Internet Source: Nixon and Kissinger on India and Indira Gandhi*  
<http://www.sepiamutiny.com/sepia/archives/001784.html>
- 5) *Internet Source: Shimla Agreement*  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simla\\_Agreement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simla_Agreement)

**November 24, 2009: Class Twelve: Foreign Policy (US, China and India) Cont**

- 1) *In Spite Of The Gods: Chapter 7: A Triangular Dance*
- 2) *Internet Source: Smiling Buddha—India's first nuclear test—Pokhran I*  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smiling\\_Buddha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smiling_Buddha)
- 3) *Internet Source: Operation Shakti—India's second nuclear test—Pokhran II*  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_Shakti](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Shakti)
- 4) *Internet Source: Triangular or Square dance then and now?*  
<http://www.cfr.org/publication/9962/>  
<http://www.southasiaanalysis.org/%5Cpapers15%5Cpaper1485.html>
- 5) *Youtube videos*

Students are required to make a list of words, phrases, sentences, names or anything that they find interesting and would like to know more about in each chapter for discussion in class.

**December 1, 2009: Class Thirteen: Where To India Now?**

- 1) *In Spite Of The Gods: Chapters 8 & 9: New India, Old India, Conclusion: Hers To Lose*
- 2) *Internet Source: Mutiny or First War of Independence—1857*  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian\\_Rebellion\\_of\\_1857](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Rebellion_of_1857)
- 3) *Internet Source: Sovereignty, Religious, Linguistic and other Minorities, Gender Parity, Democracy, Population Explosion, Poverty.*  
<http://www.oag.com/oag/website/com/en/Home/Travel+Magazine/Frequent+Flyer/Cultural+Briefings/Is+India+Heading+for+Superpower+Status+0510066>  
<http://www.rediff.com/news/2007/feb/05francois.htm>
- 4) *Youtube videos*

Students are required to make a list of words, phrases, sentences, names or anything that they find interesting and would like to know more about in each chapter for discussion in class.

**December 8, 2009: Class Fourteen:  
Videos from Youtube or Movie and REVISIONS**

**DATE OF THE FINAL EXAM: TBA**

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**Concluding Note:**

The class will not be entirely a lecture-based class. Students are expected to the readings prior to class and be prepared for discussion and answering questions. Some of the lectures will be power point presentations.

I would like you to learn from the course and also have fun while learning! Enjoy!