

HISTORY 314 CONTEMPORARY INDIA: 1947 TO THE PRESENT

A Liberal Studies Course in the *Social and Political Worlds* Block. Also fulfills the NAU Global Diversity Requirement.

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Course Page: <http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~sj6/contemporaryindia.html>

CHECK THE COURSE WEB PAGE FOR A COPY OF THIS SYLLABUS WITH CLICKABLE LINKS TO ELECTRONIC READINGS. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ALSO LOOK AT:

NAU Policy Statements <http://www2.nau.edu/academicadmin/plcystmt.html>
Classroom Management Statement <http://www4.nau.edu/stulife/handbookmanagement.htm>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines social, political and economic developments in India since independence in 1947, and places these developments in a historical and comparative context. Exploring the sources of India's diversity as well as unity, riches as well as poverty, the roots of cooperation as well as conflict, its progress as well as limitations, the course aims at achieving a nuanced understanding of the working of the world's largest democracy. Studying the work of well-known scholars, films, as well as some sources of information available over the Internet, this course introduces students to multiple facets of contemporary India.

The class will be run in a lecture-cum-seminar format. I hope discussions between the students and the instructor will form a significant part of the learning experience. There will, of course, be a considerable amount of lecturing too, whose frequency and content will depend on my agenda as well as the nature of questions asked by the students! The course demands that students come to class having done the assigned readings and prepared to discuss them with the instructor and fellow students. As some of the course material is only accessible through the Internet, basic knowledge of how to navigate the Internet is an essential pre-requisite for this class.

READINGS

Two books have been ordered for this course at the NAU Bookstore.

Ramachandra Guha. *India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy*. New York: Ecco (Harper Collins), 2007.
Arundhati Roy. *God of Small Things: A Novel*. New York: Random House, 1997.

There are also a number of other shorter readings available on the internet. There are direct clickable links to most of these readings available through the electronic version of this syllabus on the COURSE WEB PAGE. As a matter of habit, I urge you to visit all course-related web sites in advance, and save or print the required readings. As I am sure most of you are aware, connections to web sites often fail at the very time we need them most! For that reason, having hard copies of the readings in advance will prevent panic the night before class, or a few hours before!!

ASSIGNMENTS

There are THREE different types of assignments required for this class. In addition to regular participation in class activities, you must take **one** in-class mid-term exam, produce short discussion notes responding to specific questions **four** times during the semester, and write **one formal paper** based on Arundhati Roy's novel.

I. Mid Term Exam : The mid term will be **worth 25 points**, and will consist of short answer and longer-answer questions and may include a map component.

II. Discussion Notes : This may be a relatively new kind of assignment for you, so do pay attention to the following:

You will be given specific questions or topics around which to frame your discussion notes a few days in advance of the discussion day. On the day of the discussion you need to come prepared with TWO copies of your notes (two to three typed pages) on the questions set for discussion. You will hand one copy of the notes to me, and use the other to participate in the discussion. On the class meeting immediately following the formal discussion, you will submit a revised, FINAL, set of notes, **on which you will be evaluated for this assignment.**

To evaluate the notes I will be looking for both a clearly-outlined THESIS in response to each question, AND relevant data/evidence to support your thesis. As the assignment indicates, the evidence/ data can be in "note" form. Notes that do not indicate a clear thesis or sufficient supporting data will be penalized at my discretion. To allow you to get used to the requirements of this assignment, they have been weighted progressively. **The first two set of notes will be worth 10 points each, and the latter two worth 15 points each.**

The class will be divided into small groups to facilitate the formal discussions. Attendance and participation in all discussions is mandatory; there is no possibility of make-ups in this regard. If University-related business compels you to miss the discussion, you will be allowed to submit the FINAL notes *in advance of your departure.*

III. Term Paper on *God of Small Things* : Each student will write a five to seven page paper highlighting how themes of caste, class, and/or gender ran through the novel by Arundhati Roy. Specific questions and more detailed guidelines for the paper will be provided in the assignment handed out early in November. The paper **will count toward 20 points for calculating the final course grade.**

IV. Class Participation : My subjective assessment of your attendance and participation in class activities (including the discussions) will count toward 5 points of the total course grade.

EVALUATION

Grades will be determined using the following criteria:

Discussion Notes	50 points (10 for the first two, 15 the last two)
Mid Term Exam	25 points
Term Paper	20 points
Class Participation	5 points
TOTAL FOR COURSE	100 points

The grading scale for the course will be as follows:

90+ = **A**; 80 - 89 = **B**; 70-79 = **C**; 60-69 = **D**; below 60 = **F**.

<http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~sj6/314HND01.htm>

September 21 Starting a Dynasty?

Screening of a documentary “Dynasty: The Nehru-Gandhi Story” Please finish watching parts one and two in your own time.

September 25 DISCUSSION # 1 : The Shaping of Modern India

SECTION III. MAKING INDIA MODERN

September 27- October 3 The Making of Contemporary India

Required Readings

Guha, Chapters Seven to Nine. **Read Seven and Eight, Skim chapter Nine.**

October 5 MID TERM REVIEW

October 10 MID TERM EXAM

October 12 Ruling the Republic

Required Readings

Guha, Chapters Ten to Thirteen. **Read Ten and Twelve. Skim Eleven and Thirteen.**

October 14 Challenges to the Nehruvian Model

Required Readings

SKIM Guha, Chapters Fourteen, Fifteen, Sixteen.

October 17 Majorities and Minorities

Required Readings

Guha, Chapter Seventeen.

October 19 DISCUSSION # 2: Was Nehru Good for India?

SECTION IV. INDIA AFTER NEHRU: POPULISM AND ITS DANGERS

October 24-26 Recourse to Populism: Indira is India

Required Readings

Guha, Chapters Eighteen to Twenty.

PAPER ON GOD OF SMALL THINGS ASSIGNED

October 31-November 2 Consequence of Populism

Required Readings

Guha, **SKIM** Chapter Twenty One, **READ** Twenty Two and Twenty Three.

I strongly advise you to start reading Roy’s *God of Small Things* early in November.

November 7 Dynasty and Democracy

Required Readings

Guha, Chapters Twenty Four and Twenty Five.

November 9 DISCUSSION # 3: Evaluating Indian Democracy

SECTION IV: CRITICAL THEMES IN CONTEMPORARY INDIAN HISTORY

November 14-16 Class, Caste and Gender

Required Readings

1. Amartya Sen, "Class in India." pp 204-209 of *Argumentative Indian* (Penguin, 2005)

http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~sj6/Sen_-_Class_in_India_PDF.pdf

2. . I want you to start by going to the Library of Congress (LoC) Country Studies page on India at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/intoc.html> and FIRST go to the section on Caste and Class and read the subsections on

* Varna, Caste, and Other Divisions

* Intercaste Relations

* Changes in the Caste System

THEN go **back** to the section titled Themes in Indian Society and read the subsections on

* Hierarchy

* Purity and Pollution

(As the LoC stores these as temporary files, I cannot provide you direct links to these subsections.

Despite the complicated instructions, these are very short, simple readings)

3. Urvashi Butalia, "Women's Movement in India: Action and Reflection."

<http://www.twinside.org.sg/title/india1-cn.htm>

4. Screening parts of *When Women Unite*

November 21 Class, Caste and Gender in *God of Small Things*

Required Readings

Arundhati Roy, *God of Small Things*. (Entire text).

November 23 - 28 Caste, Community, and Power

Required Readings

Guha, Chapters Twenty Six and Twenty Seven.

PAPER on *God of Small Things* DUE NOVEMBER 28

November 30 Contradictions of Contemporary India

Required Readings

SKIM Guha, Chapters Twenty Eight and Twenty Nine.

December 2 Popular Culture in Contemporary India

Required Readings

Guha, Chapter Thirty

December 4 DISCUSSION # 4 Making Sense of Contemporary India

December 6 Final Discussion Notes due.

Northern Arizona University

POLICY STATEMENTS

SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

NAU's Safe Working and Learning Environment Policy seeks to prohibit discrimination and promote the safety of all individuals within the university. The goal of this policy is to prevent the occurrence of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status and to prevent sexual harassment, sexual assault or retaliation by anyone at this university.

You may obtain a copy of this policy from the college dean's office or from the NAU's Affirmative Action website <http://www4.nau.edu/diversity/swale.htm>. If you have concerns about this policy, it is important that you contact the departmental chair, dean's office, the Office of Student Life (928-523-5181), or NAU's Office of Affirmative Action (928-523-3312).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have a documented disability, you can arrange for accommodations by contacting the office of Disability Support Services (DSS) at 928-523-8773 (voice), 928-523-6906 (TTY). In order for your individual needs to be met, you are required to provide DSS with disability related documentation and are encouraged to provide it at least eight weeks prior to the time you wish to receive accommodations. You must register with DSS each semester you are enrolled at NAU and wish to use accommodations.

Faculty are not authorized to provide a student with disability related accommodations without prior approval from DSS. Students who have registered with DSS are encouraged to notify their instructors a minimum of two weeks in advance to ensure accommodations. Otherwise, the provision of accommodations may be delayed.

Concerns or questions regarding disability related accommodations can be brought to the attention of DSS or the Affirmative Action Office. For more information, visit the DSS website at <http://www2.nau.edu/dss/>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The university takes an extremely serious view of violations of academic integrity. As members of the academic community, NAU's administration, faculty, staff and students are dedicated to promoting an atmosphere of honesty and are committed to maintaining the academic integrity essential to the education process. Inherent in this commitment is the belief that academic dishonesty in all forms violates the basic principles of integrity and impedes learning. Students are therefore responsible for conducting themselves in an academically honest manner.

Individual students and faculty members are responsible for identifying instances of academic dishonesty. Faculty members then recommend penalties to the department chair or college dean in keeping with the severity of the violation. The complete policy on academic integrity is in Appendix G of NAU's Student Handbook <http://www4.nau.edu/stulife/handbookdishonesty.htm>.

ACADEMIC CONTACT HOUR POLICY

The Arizona Board of Regents Academic Contact Hour Policy (ABOR Handbook, 2-206, Academic Credit) states: "an hour of work is the equivalent of 50 minutes of class time...at least 15 contact hours of recitation, lecture, discussion, testing or evaluation, seminar, or colloquium as well as a minimum of 30 hours of student homework is required for each unit of credit."

The reasonable interpretation of this policy is that for every credit hour, a student should expect, on average, to do a minimum of two additional hours of work per week; e.g., preparation, homework, studying.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Membership in the academic community places a special obligation on all members to preserve an atmosphere conducive to a safe and positive learning environment. Part of that obligation implies the responsibility of each member of the NAU community to maintain an environment in which the behavior of any individual is not disruptive.

It is the responsibility of each student to behave in a manner that does not interrupt or disrupt the delivery of education by faculty members or receipt of education by students, within or outside the classroom. The determination of whether such interruption or disruption has occurred has to be made by the faculty member at the time the behavior occurs. It becomes the responsibility of the individual faculty member to maintain and enforce the standards of behavior acceptable to preserving an atmosphere for teaching and learning in accordance with University regulations and the course syllabus.

At a minimum, students will be warned if their behavior is evaluated by the faculty member as disruptive. Serious disruptions, as determined by the faculty member, may result in immediate removal of the student from the instructional environment. Significant and/or continued violations may result in an administrative withdrawal from the class. Additional responses by the faculty member to disruptive behavior may include a range of actions from discussing the disruptive behavior with the student to referral to the appropriate academic unit and/or the Office of Student Life for administrative review, with a view to implement corrective action up to and including suspension or expulsion.