Your task will be write a paper evaluating Vasant Moon’s *Growing up Untouchable in India: A Dalit Autobiography* in the context of history you have learnt in this course, and the knowledge you will gain through some independent research on the history and politics of India since 1947.

*This is not a simple book review.* I want you to focus on some aspect of this autobiography (e.g. role of education, everyday forms of prejudice, role of the Indian state, gender relations within the Dalit community, political mobilization, etc.) and then undertake some further research into that topic. The paper should use Moon’s book to evaluate how well Guha’s textbook addressed this specific aspect of Dalit history in India since independence. Your paper must demonstrate how well you have understood the issues that have arisen from the troubled history of India’s Dalits since 1947. I am asking you to show me that you have not only understood this history, but that you can add to what you have learnt in the class through your own research.

**Requirements**
The paper needs to be between 7 to 10 pages (double spaced, one inch margins, fonts between ten and twelve points). Unlike the discussion notes assignments, this assignment asks you to write a FORMAL paper, so your work will be evaluated for style as well as content. Badly written or unclear prose, spelling errors, or the use of slang, will be penalized. You must cite your sources using footnotes and provide a bibliography (not counting toward page limit) at the end of the paper. The Chicago Style manual is available online, via Cline Library. All pages MUST be numbered. Do make use of the History writing lab to seek help with a draft. Keep in mind that you must make appointments and give the advisors at the lab adequate time to read and comment on your paper. Schedule your work accordingly. The lab will not be open during certain times of the semester.

**Research**
In addition to course material, this paper requires you to conduct some independent research. Your paper should use at least five sources beyond course readings (three journalistic sources, and at least two scholarly sources) pertaining to India’s Dalit minority. Journalistic sources should include at least one source from India. In addition to these, you may also use more polemical websites to gather research material, but these should be used to represent perspectives, rather than as sources of factual evidence.

**Sources for Research**
Scholarly sources can include peer-reviewed journals (or their websites), books published by reputable academic presses, or proceedings of conferences. I would particularly urge you to look at scholarly sources in journals such as *Economic and Political Weekly* or *Seminar* from India [http://www.india-seminar.com/semframe.html](http://www.india-seminar.com/semframe.html). Running searches on JSTOR [http://www.jstor.org/action/showAdvancedSearch](http://www.jstor.org/action/showAdvancedSearch) might also yield good results. There are many ways of looking for journalistic sources, and there are many media stories available to you in English via the Internet. One way to do this research is to use Google News, and research for India, Dalits, and other relevant keywords.

**Advice on Process**
1. Read the autobiography once.
2. Revisit older course readings on the place and predicament of Dalits in India (on Ambedkar, for instance).
3. Think about what aspect of the autobiography you want to focus on (e.g. everyday forms of prejudice, gender relations within the Dalit community, etc.) and read the book once again, this time focused on your theme.
4. Undertake some research, using scholarly and media sources that will throw light on your specific focus.
5. Write the paper, evaluating how well or otherwise Guha’s textbook was able to reflect on the particular aspect (the focus will be your choice) of the place of Dalits in Indian politics and/or society since 1947.

The paper is due in class on May 4th. BECAUSE I AM NO LONGER LEAVING TOWN BEFORE THE END OF THE CLASS PERIOD, THERE WILL BE NO OPTION TO SUBMIT THE PAPER VIA BBLEARN. The assignment is worth 25 points out of the total 100 points available for the course.