Islam in South Asia: 1707-Present—Fall 2012

Course Code: ISLA 421
Hours: TR 10:05am-11:25am
Classroom: 1085 Dr. Penfield Rm. 002

Instructor: Prof. Pasha M. Khan
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Office Hour: T 2:30pm-3:30pm or by appointment

This seminar-style course will present students with a survey of the political, cultural, and linguistic history of South Asia from the death of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb to the present, with a particular focus on the Muslims of South Asia and their influence. Special attention will be given to the perception of the eighteenth century as a period of decadence and decline; the history of poetry, visual art, and music; Islamic religious movements; the relationship of Islam to other thought systems; gender; and minority politics.

Required Texts:

All of these texts are available at the McGill Bookstore (3420 McTavish Street).

All other readings (listed in the course schedule) will be made available to you via MyCourses. If you do NOT have access to the MyCourses page for this class, please notify me A.S.A.P.! Note as well that the list of readings is tentative, and texts may be added or subtracted according to the needs of the course as it develops. Please pay attention to announcements in class and to class emails.

It is highly recommended that you also buy the following text in addition to the required texts listed above:

Grading Scheme:

Class Participation 30% Participation in class discussions makes up a significant portion of your grade. Please come to class and engage in the discussion!

Comments on MyCourses Forums 10% Students should post their brief thoughts (no more than a paragraph) biweekly on the forum that is to be made available on the MyCourses page for the site. They should be posted by 11pm the night before class. These will form much of the basis of the class discussion.

Minor Research Paper 10% 5-7 pages, due Oct. 18

Major Research Paper 30% 20-30 pages, due Dec. 4

Presentation 20% Nov. 13-Nov. 29 In your presentation, you will “teach” a half-hour lesson on a topic to be chosen from the course topics for the modern period. A script or bullet-point notes for the presentation must be handed at the beginning of the class following the presentation.

Class Schedule:

Week 1 *EIGHTEENTH CENTURY*

Sept. 6 INTRODUCTION

Readings (in class):
- "Islamicate" in Hodgson, Marshall G. S. The Venture of Islam.

Week 2

Sept. 11 The Eighteenth Century: An Era of Decline?

Readings:
- Metcalf 28-44

Recommended:
- Alam, Muzaffar. Introduction to *Crisis of Empire in Mughal North India*. Delhi: OUP, 1986.

**Sept. 13 SHAH WALIULLAH**

Guest lecturer: Asif Iftikhar

Readings TBA

**Week 3**

**Sept. 18 VAISHNAVISM AND ISLAM**

Readings:

**Sept. 20 TURMOIL IN DELHI, FLORESCENCE IN AWADH**

Readings:
- Cheema, G.S. *The Forgotten Mughals*. Delhi: Manohar, 2002. (Selections)

**Week 4**

**Sept. 25 LIBRARY SESSION**

**Sept. 27 PASHTUNS, PUNJAB, AND SUFISM**

Readings:
- Sarkar, Jadunath. *Fall of the Mughal Empire*. Calcutta: M.C. Sarkar, 1942-52. (Selections)
Week 5  *NINETEENTH CENTURY*

Oct. 2  THE BRITISH IN INDIA

Readings:

- Metcalf 44-68

Oct. 4  FORT WILLIAM AND BRITISH ATTITUDES TO INDIA

Readings:

- Metcalf 80-83

Week 6

Oct. 9  PERFORMING GENDER IN LITERARY WORKS

Readings:


Oct. 11  SYED AHMAD BARELWI

Guest lecturer: Asif Iftikhar

Readings TBA

Week 7

Oct. 16  RANJIT SINGH AND THE SIKHS
Readings:

- Metcalf 83-85

Oct. 18  Wajid Ali Shah and “Decadence,” Ghalib and his times

Minor Research Paper DUE

Readings:

- Pritchett Ch. 1

Week 8
Oct. 23  The 1857 Rebellion

Readings:

- Metcalf 92-123
- Pritchett Ch. 2-3
- Sayyid Ahmad Khan. The Causes of the Indian Revolt.

Oct. 25  Changing Worldviews

Readings:

- Readings:
- Pritchett 11-12

Week 9
Oct. 30  Women’s education; Courtesan culture

Readings:

- Rokeya Sakhawat Hosein. “Sultana’s Dream.”

Nov. 1  Religious reform; Deobandis; Ahmadis
Readings:
- Metcalf 123-167

Week 10  *TWENTIETH CENTURY*

Nov. 6  LANGUAGE DEBATES

Readings:
- Jalal Ch. 3

Nov. 8  THE KHILAFAT MOVEMENT AND THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

Readings:
- Jalal Ch. 5
- Ram Prasad Bismil. “Sarfaroshi ki tamanna.”

Week 11

Nov. 13  IQBAL, JINNAH, AND THE IDEA OF PAKISTAN

Student presentation

Readings:
- “Lahore Declaration”
- Selections from the poetry of Muhammad Iqbal

Nov. 15  PARTITION

Student presentation

Readings:
Week 12
Nov. 20  MODERN MUSIC

Student presentation

Readings:

Nov. 22  BHUTTO AND BANGLADESH

Student presentation

Readings:
- History of Bangladesh, Van Schendel (Selections)

Week 13
Nov. 27  ZIA UL-HAQQ AND THE BLASPHEMY LAW

Student presentation

Readings:
- Ustad Daman. “My Country Has Two Allahs.”
- Habib Jalib. “Political Advisor.”
- Pushpa Vallabh. Selected poems.
Nov. 29  
**HINDU NATIONALISM AND INDIAN MUSLIMS**

**Student presentation**

Readings

**Week 14**
Dec. 4  
**Major Research Paper DUE**

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