

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Winter Semester (January- May 2019)

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| School: | Undergraduate Studies |
| Programme with title: | BA (Honours) History |
| Semester to which offered: (I/ III/ V) | IV Semester |
| Course Title: | India c. 1700 – 1857 |
| Credits: | 4 Credits |
| Course Code (new): | SUS1HS407 |
| Course Code (old): | H08 |
| Type of Course: | Compulsory yes Cohort BA (H) History |
| | Elective yes Cohort Other Majors |

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory) X
4. Discipline (Elective) X
5. Elective

Course Coordinator and Team: Paulami Guha Biswas

Email of course coordinator: paulami@aud.ac.in

Pre-requisites: None

Aim: This course explores the complex dimensions of the transition in India from the late Mughal period to the ascendancy of British power till the revolt of 1857. It has two main components. While it traces the trajectory of the processes of British colonization of India, it also seeks to throw light on the varied experience of colonialism by the subject population. It begins with the debates on the decline of the Mughal Empire and the nature of eighteenth century Indian society. It then discusses the pattern of British conquest of India in the global context of trade, warfare and empire building. It seeks to understand the processes by which the East India Company moved from trade to territorial control. The course gives equal importance to the various aspects of the impact of early colonial rule and the ways in which the subject population of India internalized, questioned and opposed colonial rule. It discusses the nature of popular protests from the eighteenth century till the revolt of 1857.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

1. India in the eighteenth century: Mughal Empire – ‘collapse’ or ‘decentralisation’? The debate on the nature of the 18th c: continuity vs. change, the validity of the notion of the dark century.
2. The East India Company: from trade to territorial control.
3. The foundations of the colonial state: land revenue systems, early colonial trade, the evolution of the army, judiciary and colonial administration.
4. The ideologies of colonial governance: Orientalism, Utilitarianism, Evangelicalism, racism, ideas of improvement and progress, new notions underlying law, justice and private property.
5. The emergence of the middle classes in India: impact of print culture and western education, early social and religious reform.
6. Protest and Rebellion: pre-1857 tribal and peasant protests. The causes, nature and trajectory of the revolt of 1857.

References:

1. Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal, *Modern South Asia* (Delhi, OUP, 1999)
2. Ishita Dube-Banerjee, *A History of Modern India* (Delhi, CUP, 2014)
3. Sumit Sarkar, *Modern Times: India 1880s – 1950s, Environment, Economy, Culture* (Ranikhet, Permanent Black, 2014)

4. Seema Alavi (ed), *The Eighteenth Century in India* (Delhi, OUP, 2002)
5. P.J. Marshall (ed.), *The Eighteenth Century in Indian History: Evolution or Revolution?* (New Delhi, OUP, 2003)
6. C.A. Bayly, *Rulers, Townsmen and Bazaars: North Indian Society in the Age of British Expansion 1770-1870* (New Delhi, OUP, 1992)
7. Sekhar Bandopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition: A History of Modern India* (New Delhi, Orient Longman, 2004)
8. Dharma Kumar (ed.), *The Cambridge Economic History of India Vol. 2* (Cambridge, CUP, 1982)
9. *Subaltern Studies* Vols. 1-10, Boxed set of Paperback volumes (Delhi, OUP)
10. Nicholas Dirks, *The Hollow Crown* (Orient Longman, 1998)
11. Michael H. Fisher (ed.), *The Politics of British Annexation of India 1757-1857* (Delhi, OUP, 1996)
12. Radhika Singha, *A Despotism of Law: Crime and Justice in Early Colonial India* (Delhi, OUP, 2000)
13. Seema Alavi, *The Sepoys and the Company: Tradition and Transition in Northern India 1770-1830* (Delhi, OUP, 1995)
14. David Arnold, *The New Cambridge History of India: III.5, Science, Technology and Medicine in Colonial India* (Cambridge, CUP, 2000)
15. Sanjay Sharma, *Famine, Philanthropy and the Colonial State: North India in the Early Nineteenth Century* (Delhi, OUP, 2001)
16. Ranajit Guha, *The Small Voice of History* (Permanent Black, 2009)
17. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya (ed) *Rethinking 1857* (Delhi, Orient BlackSwan, 2007)
18. Biswamoy Pati (ed.), *The 1857 Rebellion* (New Delhi, OUP, 2007)

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

| S.No | Assessment | Date/period in which Assessment will take place | Weightage |
|------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1 | Take Home Assignment 1 | First week of February | 25% |
| 2 | Presentation for first assignment | Mid February | 10% |
| 3 | Take Home Assignment 2 | Third week of March | 25% |

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| 4 | Presentation for second assignment | End March | 10% |
| 5 | End Semester Exam | As per SUS Schedule | 30% |

