

(Provisional Syllabus) HH 2011: *Ancient and Medieval South Asia*

Asst. Prof. Nicholas Witkowski

Email: nwitkowski@ntu.edu.sg

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Aims

In this course, you will explore ancient and medieval South Asian (c. 3000BCE-1200CE) history from a variety of perspectives. You will engage with a wide range of South Asian literatures and become familiar with theoretical approaches to these sources. In this course, you will **take seriously** the arguments and narrative frameworks of texts such as the *Vedas*, the *Upaniṣads*, Buddhist literatures, classical Sanskrit poetry, political theory, as well as treatises on aesthetics, sexuality, economics, family and war.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Investigate and explain the role of a range of historical processes in the formation of major cultural shifts in ancient and medieval South Asia.
2. Analyze and interpret primary source materials across a wide range of South Asian cultural movements.
3. Utilize secondary scholarly materials to develop evidence-based, well-reasoned arguments about the relationship of primary materials to broader historical trends.
4. Develop historical empathy for the highly pluralistic and cosmopolitan cultural frameworks that characterized ancient and medieval South Asia.

Requirements and Expectations

Participation - 10%: You are required to be present and ready to participate in each class, having completed the week's readings beforehand. However, participation does NOT mean just showing up. You must be prepared for a discussion, which means coming to class, having thought deeply about the texts, and with thoughts to share on the texts you have read. This class is a discussion-based **seminar** and NOT a lecture. Those who are not prepared to engage deeply with the class through discussion and debate should NOT take this class.

Weekly Online Submissions - 15%: Each week, you are to submit online a 500-word **analysis** of at least one principle theme from the primary or secondary **sources discussed**. You will submit the analysis 2 days before the class to give other students the opportunity to read through your argument. You will then respond to the analysis on Blackboard to at least 3 students. In these discussions with other students, you will come together to **formulate evidence-based, well-reasoned arguments** for your **interpretations** of the sources of that week.

Essay I (Primary Source Analysis) - 25%: You will submit a 1500-word essay (due Week 6). The professor will determine the argument of the essay. The role of the student will be to draw upon primary and secondary sources to **conceptualize** and **explain** the reasons for the **historical process** outlined in the argument. This essay is not a research project but, rather, a close reading of one primary source.

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Essay II (Research Essay) - 50%: You will submit a 3000-word **research** essay (due Week 12). This project will consist of three parts. You will submit a (1) research proposal/outline (500 words) (**5%**) and an (2) annotated bibliography (500 words) (**5%**) before proceeding to write the (3) research essay (**40%**).

Course Outline

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Week (1) | Course Introduction and Overview |
| Week (2) | Interrogating Colonial and Modern Scholarly Presumptions about South Asian History

<u>Readings:</u> Lal, Chapter 1; Thapar, pp. 1-29 |
| Week (3) | Early Vedic Patriarchy: Multiple Scholarly Perspectives on Sacrifice in the <i>Vedas</i>

<u>Secondary Sources:</u> Thapar: 98-117; Jay, Chapters 2 and 3; Jamison selections

<u>Primary Sources:</u> <i>Rig Veda</i> passages cited in Jamison |
| Week (4) | The Two Competing Cultures of the Second Urbanization: King as Enforcer or Renunciant?

<u>Secondary Sources:</u> Singh, Introduction and Chapter 1; Thapar Chapter 5; Samuel, Chapters 3 and 4

<u>Primary Sources:</u> <i>Rāmāyana</i> (selections) |
| Week (5) | The Rise of Ascetic Movements (I)—A Story of the Individualization of the Body from Corporate Identity

<u>Secondary Sources:</u> Samuel, Chapters 5 and 6; Doniger (2009), Chapter 7

<u>Website:</u> Facebook page of Haṭha Yoga Project (https://www.facebook.com/HathaYogaProject/)

<u>Primary Sources:</u> <i>Upaniṣads</i> , selections |

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Film: *Naked in Ashes*

Week (6)

The Rise of Ascetic Movements (II)—A Story of the Individualization of the Body from Corporate Identity

Assignment Due: Primary Source Analysis (submit on Blackboard by 23:59)

Secondary Sources: Wilson; Zysk, Chapter 1

Primary Sources: Buddhist *Sūtras* cited in Wilson

BBC4 Podcast: Sunil Khilnani's discussion of the Buddha

Week (7)

War and Wealth in Medieval South Asia: Redefinition of Indian Cultures through Violence and Trade

Secondary Sources: Singh, 95-123 and Chapter 4

Primary Sources: *Arthaśāstra*, selections

BBC4 Podcast: Sunil Khilnani's discussion of Kautilya's *Arthaśāstra* and Aśoka

Week (8)

The Vedic Patriarchy Strikes Back: The Rise of “Brahmanism” against Ascetic Movements

Secondary Sources: Samuel, Chapter 7; Malamoud, Chapter 5

Primary Sources: *Law Code of Manu*, selections; *Mahābhārata*, selections

Week (9)

Was there a “Classical” Age in India? Sanskritization as a Centripetal Force in Early Medieval Indian Courts

Secondary Sources: Pollock (2006), Chapter 1

Primary Sources: Kālidāsa, selections

Week (10)

Classical Indian Aesthetics

Secondary Sources: Siegel (1987), selections

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Primary Sources: Pollock (2016), selections

Week (11)

Tantric Religiosity and Tantric Aesthetics

Secondary Sources: Samuel, chapters 9-12

Primary Sources: White, selections

Week (12)

Changing Conceptions of Paradise During the First Millenium in South Asia

Assignment Due: Research Paper (submit on Blackboard by 23:59)

Secondary Sources: Knipe

Primary Sources: Mahāyāna *Sūtras*, selections

Week (13)

The Cosmopolitanism of the Silk Road: Indian Cultures as Change Agents across Asia

Secondary Sources: Liu, chapter 3

Primary Sources: Pure Land *Sūtras*, selections

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Readings

Ali, Daud (2002). "Anxieties of Attachment: The Dynamics of Courtship in Medieval India," *Modern Asian Studies* 36(1), 103-139. (NTU Library Site)

Ali, Daud (2007). "Violence, Courtly Manners and Lineage Formation in Early Medieval India," *Social Scientist* 35 (9/10): 3-21. (NTU Library Site)

Doniger, Wendy (2009). *The Hindus: An Alternative History*. New York: Penguin. (Blackboard)

Doniger, Wendy (2013). *The Rig Veda*. New York: Penguin. (NTU Library Site)

Haksar, A.N.D. (trans.) (2016). *Raghuvamsam: The Line of Raghu*. New York Penguin. NTU Library Site)

Jamison, Stephanie (1996). *Sacrificed Wife/Sacrificer's Wife: Women, Ritual and Hospitality in Ancient India*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Blackboard)

Jay, Nancy (1994). *Throughout Your Generations Forever: Sacrifice, Religion, and Paternity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Blackboard)

Knipe, David M. (1977). *Sapīṇḍīkaraṇa: The Hindu Rite of Entry into Heaven*" In *Religious Encounters with Death: Insights from the History and Anthropology of Religions*, edited by Frank E. Reynolds and Earle H. Waugh. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 109-124.

Lal, Vinay (2005). *The History of History: Politics and Scholarship in Modern India*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (NTU Library Site)

Liu, Xinru (2010). *The Silk Road in World History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Blackboard)

Malamoud, Charles (1996). *Cooking the World: Ritual and Thought in Ancient India*, translated by David White. Delhi: Oxford University Press. (Blackboard)

Olivelle, Patrick (1996). *Upaniṣads*. New York: Penguin. (NTU Library Site)

Olivelle, Patrick (2004). *The Law Code of Manu*. New York: Penguin.

Olivelle, Patrick (2013). *King, Governance, and Law in Ancient India: Kauṭilya's Arthaśāstra*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (NTU Library Site)

Pollock, Sheldon (1991). *The Rāmāyana of Vālmīki*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (NTU Library Site)

Pollock, Sheldon (2006). *The Language of the Gods in the World of Men: Sanskrit, Culture, and Power in Premodern India*. Berkeley: UC Press. (NTU Library Site)

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Pollock, Sheldon (2016). *A Rasa Reader: Classical Indian Aesthetics*. Columbia University Press.
(Blackboard)

Samuel, Geoffrey (2010). *The Origins of Yoga and Tantra: Indic Religions to the Thirteenth Century*.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (NTU Library Site)

Siegel, Lee (1983). *Fires of Love, Waters of Peace: Passion and Renunciation in Indian Culture*.
Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. (Blackboard)

Siegel, Lee (1987). *Laughing Matters: Comic Tradition in India*. Honolulu. University of Hawai'i Press.
(Blackboard)

Singh, Upinder (2017). *Political Violence in Ancient India*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
(Blackboard)

Thapar, Romila (2003). *The Penguin History of Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300*. London:
Penguin.

White, David Gordon (ed.) (2000). *Tantra in Practice*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Wilson, Liz (1996). *Charming Cadavers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Blackboard)

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Course Policies

(1) General

You are expected to complete all assigned pre-class readings and activities, attend all lectures/tutorials punctually and take all scheduled assignments and tests by due dates. You are expected to take responsibility to follow up with course notes, assignments and course related announcements for seminar sessions you have missed. You are expected to participate in all seminar discussions and activities.

(2) Absenteeism

Absence from class without a valid reason can affect your overall course grade. Valid reasons include falling sick supported by a medical certificate and participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies.

If you miss a lecture, you must inform the course instructor via email prior to the start of the class.

(3) Late submission of assignments and extensions

Midterm essay assignments that are submitted past the due date will be deducted 10% off the mark assigned per day that the assignment is late, down to the pass mark (40%). That is, you will not be failed merely on late submission, but there is a significant penalty per day. If you receive 65% and your assignment is 1 day late, your mark will be 55% (a 10% penalty). If you receive 60% and your assignment is 4 days late, you will receive 40% (since I do not deduct below the pass mark).

Extensions: If you require an extension please email me **prior to day the assignment is due**. Extensions will only be given in cases of illness (in which a student presents a medical certificate) or in serious extenuating circumstances.

Appendix: Course Style Guide

1. Format of all written assignments

1.A. Font

The essay should be in Times New Roman font. The body of paragraphs should be 12 point size. Headings should be 14 point size and footnotes 10 point size.

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1.B. Spacing

The body of the essay (including block quotations) should be double spaced. However, footnotes may be single spaced.

2. Elements of style

2.A. Quotations

Double quotation marks should be used. Quotations within quotations should be indicated with single quotation marks. Place commas and full stops inside quotations and other punctuation marks (e.g. colons and semi-colons) outside the quotation, unless they are part of the quoted text.

Short quotes: Short quotations from other sources should be included in quotation marks within the body of the paragraph.

Block quotes: Quotations of four or more lines (before indenting) should be formatted as a block quote. In a block quote, the quoted text should be in a separate paragraph from the main text and indented from the margin. Neither italics nor quotation marks should be used in a block quote unless they appear in the original. The footnote to the quote should be included at the end of the quote, after the punctuation mark. The quoted text should be in double line spacing (like the main text).

2.B. Spelling

The essay should be in the English language. Students may use either American or British spelling, but should be consistent throughout. Quotations should follow the original text precisely, even if there are spelling or grammatical errors in the original. Students should insert “[sic]” after spelling and grammatical mistakes in quotations.

2.C. Italics

Italics should be used for non-English language words. However, words of non-English language origin that are commonly used in English (such as “bazaar”) do not need to be in italics.

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Moreover, foreign language proper nouns such as names, places, and organisations (for example, “Guomindang” or “Barisan Nasional”) should not be italicised.

2.D. References to titles in the text

References to the titles of books, pamphlets, films, etc. should follow the referencing style (see section 2 below). Thus, the following titles should be italicised: books; pamphlets; periodicals; plays; and films. The following should be enclosed in quotation marks: titles of articles; book chapters; unpublished works; and theses.

2.E. Brackets

Round brackets should be used in the main text (these are round brackets). Square brackets should be used for insertions in quotations, if an insertion is required so that the quoted sentence makes sense. For example: Washington stated in his 1796 Farewell Address, “The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you [the American people].”

2.F. Numbers and dates

Spell out numbers less than ten, except for page numbers and dates, and material in footnotes and bibliography (see section 2 below on referencing style).

For dates, use the following forms: 20 December 1875; 1875–77; nineteenth century; 1870s; 200 B.C. and A.D. 200. Including A.D. is only necessary if non-inclusion would cause confusion.

Abbreviations may be used in footnotes, e.g.: 20 Dec. 1875.

The following are examples of correct and incorrect references to decades:

The doctor gave up smoking back in the 1980’s. → Incorrect

The doctor gave up smoking back in the 1980s. → Correct

The doctor gave up smoking back in the ’80’s. → Incorrect

The doctor gave up smoking back in the ’80s. → Correct

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3. Footnote and bibliography referencing style

Students are required to use the 16th edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, which is available on-shelf in the NTU library. Below are examples of footnote and bibliography references taken from the Chicago style guide.

3.A. Footnotes

The first time a work is referenced in the footnotes, a full reference (including full author name, title and publication details) should be used. Subsequent references should be shortened to author's family name, short title and page number. When the same work is referenced in two consecutive footnotes, "Ibid., [page number]" should be used for the second footnote.

Book

One author

1. Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (New York: Penguin, 2006), 99–100.

[Short reference: Pollan, *Omnivore's Dilemma*, 3.]

Two or more authors

1. Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns, *The War: An Intimate History, 1941–1945* (New York: Knopf, 2007), 52.

[Short reference: Ward and Burns, *War*, 59–61.]

Four or more authors: List all of the authors in the bibliography; in the note, list only the first author, followed by *et al.* ("and others"):

1. Dana Barnes et al., *Plastics: Essays on American Corporate Ascendance in the 1960s . . .*

Editor, translator, or compiler instead of author

1. Richmond Lattimore, trans., *The Iliad of Homer* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951), 91–92.

[Short reference: Lattimore, *Iliad*, 24.]

Editor, translator, or compiler in addition to author

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1. Gabriel García Márquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, trans. Edith Grossman (London: Cape, 1988), 242–55.

[Short reference: García Márquez, *Cholera*, 33.]

Chapter or other part of a book

Book chapter:

1. John D. Kelly, “Seeing Red: Mao Fetishism, Pax Americana, and the Moral Economy of War,” in *Anthropology and Global Counterinsurgency*, ed. John D. Kelly et al. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), 77.

[Short reference: Kelly, “Seeing Red,” 81–82.]

Preface, foreword, introduction, or similar part of a book

1. James Rieger, introduction to *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982), xx–xxi.

[Short reference: Rieger, introduction, xxxiii.]

Book published electronically

If a book is available in more than one format, cite the version you consulted. For books consulted online, list a URL. Include the year that the book was published, not the date it was put online, or the date you accessed it. If no fixed page numbers are available, you can include a section title or chapter number.

1. Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2007), Kindle edition.

2. Philip B. Kurland and Ralph Lerner, eds., *The Founders’ Constitution* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987), <http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/>.

3. Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*. [Short reference]

4. Kurland and Lerner, *Founder’s Constitution*, chap. 10, doc. 19. [Short reference]

Periodical

Article in a print journal

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In a note, list the specific page numbers consulted, if any. In the bibliography, list the page range for the whole article. If you access a print journal electronically, you do not need to include the URL or DOI (Digital Object Identifier). A DOI is a permanent ID that, when appended to <http://dx.doi.org/> in the address bar of an Internet browser, will lead to the source. URL's and DOI's are only necessary for journals which are published in electronic format only (see below).

1. Joshua I. Weinstein, "The Market in Plato's *Republic*," *Classical Philology* 104 (2009): 440.

[Short reference: Weinstein, "Plato's *Republic*," 452–53.]

Article in an online journal

Include a DOI if the journal lists one. If no DOI is available, list a URL. Do not include an access date.

1. Gueorgi Kossinets and Duncan J. Watts, "Origins of Homophily in an Evolving Social Network," *American Journal of Sociology* 115 (2009): 411, accessed February 28, 2010, doi:10.1086/599247.

[Short reference: Kossinets and Watts, "Origins of Homophily," 439.]

Article in a newspaper or popular magazine

If you consulted the article online, include a URL; an access date is not necessary. If no author is identified, begin the citation with the article title.

1. Daniel Mendelsohn, "But Enough about Me," *New Yorker*, January 25, 2010, 68.

2. Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Robert Pear, "Wary Centrists Posing Challenge in Health Care Vote," *New York Times*, February 27, 2010, accessed February 28, 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/28/us/politics/28health.html>.

3. Mendelsohn, "But Enough about Me," 69. [Short reference]

4. Stolberg and Pear, "Wary Centrists." [Short reference]

Book review

1. David Kamp, "Deconstructing Dinner," review of *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, by Michael Pollan, *New York Times*, April 23, 2006, Sunday Book Review, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/23/books/review/23kamp.html>.

[Short reference: Kamp, "Deconstructing Dinner."]

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Unpublished source

Essay or dissertation

1. Mihwa Choi, “Contesting *Imaginaires* in Death Rituals during the Northern Song Dynasty” (PhD diss., University of Chicago, 2008).

[Short reference: Choi, “Contesting *Imaginaires*.”]

Paper presented at a meeting or conference

1. Rachel Adelman, “‘Such Stuff as Dreams Are Made On’: God’s Footstool in the Aramaic Targumim and Midrashic Tradition” (paper presented at the annual meeting for the Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 21–24, 2009).

[Short reference: Adelman, “Such Stuff as Dreams.”]

Website

Because website content is subject to change, include an access date or, if available, a date that the site was last modified.

1. “Google Privacy Policy,” last modified March 11, 2009,

<http://www.google.com/intl/en/privacypolicy.html>.

2. “McDonald’s Happy Meal Toy Safety Facts,” McDonald’s Corporation, accessed July 19, 2008, <http://www.mcdonalds.com/corp/about/factsheets.html>.

3. “Google Privacy Policy.” [Short reference]

4. “Toy Safety Facts.” [Short reference]

3.B. Bibliography

The bibliography below contains examples of each of the source types listed above. **The source type is included in square brackets after the example. You obviously should not include this in your bibliography.** The sources should be listed in the bibliography according to alphabetical order (as below).

For journal articles and book chapters, include the page number range of the article/chapter in the bibliography. For other types of books, it is not necessary to include the pages or chapters you consulted.

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Bibliography entries should be indented from the margin from the second line (as below).

Adelman, Rachel. “‘Such Stuff as Dreams Are Made On’: God’s Footstool in the Aramaic Targumim and Midrashic Tradition.” Paper presented at the annual meeting for the Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 21–24, 2009. [Paper presented at a meeting or conference]

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. New York: Penguin Classics, 2007. Kindle edition. [Book published electronically]

Choi, Mihwa. “Contesting *Imaginaires* in Death Rituals during the Northern Song Dynasty.” PhD diss., University of Chicago, 2008. [Essay or dissertation]

García Márquez, Gabriel. *Love in the Time of Cholera*. Translated by Edith Grossman. London: Cape, 1988. [Editor, translator, or compiler in addition to author]

Google. “Google Privacy Policy.” Last modified March 11, 2009. <http://www.google.com/intl/en/privacypolicy.html>. [Website]

Kamp, David. “Deconstructing Dinner.” Review of *The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, by Michael Pollan. *New York Times*, April 23, 2006, Sunday Book Review. <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/23/books/review/23kamp.html>. [Book review]

Kelly, John D. “Seeing Red: Mao Fetishism, Pax Americana, and the Moral Economy of War.” In *Anthropology and Global Counterinsurgency*, edited by John D. Kelly, Beatrice Jauregui, Sean T. Mitchell, and Jeremy Walton, 67–83. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010. [Book chapter]

Kossinets, Gueorgi, and Duncan J. Watts. “Origins of Homophily in an Evolving Social Network.” *American Journal of Sociology* 115 (2009): 405–50. Accessed February 28, 2010. doi:10.1086/599247. [Article in an online journal.]

Kurland, Philip B., and Ralph Lerner, eds. *The Founders’ Constitution*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987. <http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/>. [Book published electronically]

Lattimore, Richmond, trans. *The Iliad of Homer*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951. [Editor, translator, or compiler instead of author]

McDonald’s Corporation. “McDonald’s Happy Meal Toy Safety Facts.” Accessed July 19, 2008. <http://www.mcdonalds.com/corp/about/factsheets.html>. [Website]

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Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. New York: Penguin, 2006. [Single author book]

Rieger, James. Introduction to *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, xi–xxxvii. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982. [Preface, foreword, introduction, or similar part of a book]

Stolberg, Sheryl Gay, and Robert Pear. "Wary Centrists Posing Challenge in Health Care Vote." *New York Times*, February 27, 2010. Accessed February 28, 2010. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/28/us/politics/28health.html>. [Article in a newspaper or popular magazine]

Ward, Geoffrey C., and Ken Burns. *The War: An Intimate History, 1941–1945*. New York: Knopf, 2007. [Book with two authors]

Weinstein, Joshua I. "The Market in Plato's *Republic*." *Classical Philology* 104 (2009): 439–58. [Article in a print journal]