

Issues in Modern Asia 2
Subaltern Studies and Indian Postcolonial Historiography
HIST 4080/7820 T01
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Instructor: Ravi Vaitheespara

Lectures: Tues: 3.00-6.00 PM

Office: 408 Fletcher Argue

Place: 300 Tier

Office Phone: 474- 8404

Email: vaithees@ms.umanitoba.ca

Office hours: Thursday 1.30-3.30 pm or by appointment.

Course Description

The Subaltern Studies Collective began in the early 1980's as an effort to challenge and critique the extant historical approaches to the study of colonialism and nationalism in colonized countries. Drawing from earlier Marxist inspired critical perspectives on colonialism and nationalism as well as the more recent post-structuralist and post-Orientalist scholarly trends, subaltern studies historians sought to free historiography from what they saw as colonial and national 'elitist' biases. More recently however, their focus has increasingly shifted to engaging critically with what they see as the limits of social and historical analysis itself in understanding non-Western societies--drawn as it is from what they believe to be the specific historical experience of the European post-enlightenment tradition. This seminar then is devoted to exploring and interrogating these more recent innovative Subaltern Studies approaches to historiography in general and South Asian historiography in particular.

Required Texts: (available at the UM Bookstore)

Ranajit Guha and Gayatri Spivak edited. *Selected Subaltern Studies*, New York: Oxford University Press.1988. (Paperback)

Ranajit Guha. Edited. *A Subaltern Studies Reader, 1986–1995*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.1995. (Paperback)

Recommended Texts

Chaturvedi Vinayak, ed. *Mapping Subaltern Studies and the Postcolonial*. Verso, 2000. (Paperback.)

Ranjith Guha, *Dominance without Hegemony: History and Power in Colonial India*. Cambridge/London: Harvard University Press, 1997. (Paperback.)

David Ludden ed. *Reading Subaltern Studies: Critical History, Contested Meaning and the Globalization of South Asia*, London: Anthem Press, 2002. (Paperback.)

ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR, READINGS AND PRESENTATION SCHEDULE:

The class will meet weekly in seminar format. Students are encouraged to play an active part in the class by leading and sustaining class discussions. After the first few weeks, students will take turns preparing a brief (Approximately 1 to 2 pages) 'think piece' which they will use to engage with the readings and elicit discussions. Since all students will be on email, these pieces should be sent to the instructor for distribution to all members of the class at least a day preceding the seminar. Think pieces will be graded on a P-, P, P+ basis and a final grade will be assigned for their cumulative value plus the student's ability to defend them orally and stimulate discussion in class. Think pieces should consider the following questions:

- Central thesis of the work in question
- What insights does the article reveal about the subject
- How would you locate this writing within the wider scholarship on the subject?
- What questions do the readings provoke?

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, MISSED CLASSES:

Active participation forms a significant portion of the final grade. Attendance alone will count for only a small fraction of the final grade so expect to come to class prepared to either pose or respond to questions, to discuss ideas, or to challenge the opinions raised by the discussion leader.

EVALUATION:

For both **Undergraduate** and **Graduate** Students

Seminar participation	20%
Discussion Papers and Presentation	10%
Analytical Paper #1 including paper proposal	30 % due Feb. 18th
Research Paper #2 including paper proposal	40% due April 5th

Paper length: For **HIST 4080** students 2000-2500 words, or 8-10 pages; for **HIST 7820** students 2400-3750 words, or 10-15 pages.

Evaluative feedback will be provided by the voluntary withdrawal date of March 18, 2011. Final grades are subject to review by Department.

Assignments

Instructions for seminar topics, written and oral presentations as well as for the written assignments will be provided by the beginning of the semester. In general, written assignments should focus on critically analyzing the topic chosen. Students are encouraged to consult journal articles in addition to recent monographs on the subject. Use of primary sources if available is also encouraged. Essays must be typed, double spaced and documented with footnotes and bibliography. Students should use humanities citation style with footnotes. For a guide to proper citation consult Kate Tarabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertation*. (Reference copy available at the Dafoe Library. Call No: LB 2369 T8 1987.)

Academic Dishonesty

“The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test, or examination is F on the paper and F for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is being suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.” See pages 27-28 of the University of Manitoba undergraduate Calendar, 2010-2011.

Grade Appeals & Unreturned term work

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work have been made available to them. Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Policy on Late Papers

To ensure fairness to those who complete their work on time, a penalty of 2% per day will be assessed on essays handed in after the due date. The penalty will only be waived in case of verifiable medical reasons or personal bereavement. A note of explanation with supporting documentation is required in these exceptional circumstances.

Grade Distribution

A+	(90-100)	C+	(65-69)
A	(80-89)	C	(60-64)
B+	(75-79)	D	(50-59)
B	(70-74)	F	(0-49)