

This is only a tentative syllabus and elements of it might be changed.

History Matters

Tue & Thurs: 10.10am-11.40am

AC-01 – 206

Prof. Projit Bihari Mukharji

Office Hours: 1.30pm – 2pm [In Person]

Or by appointment [On Zoom]

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Course Description:

History Matters is the gateway course for the History Major. It has three main objectives, viz. sensitize students to the ways in which history saturates our lives, introduce students to the full spectrum of themes studied by historians, and finally, to acquaint students with the fundamental tools of historical analysis. We will touch upon a wide range of themes in the course ranging from the history of computers to the history-writing itself and from the history of cricket to time. This is because the course is intended to be more of an introduction, than a comprehensive discussion of any single subject. At the level of analytical tools, the course will introduce students to key distinctions between history/ memory, primary/ secondary sources, fact/ narratives etc. These will be tools and vocabulary that history students would keep encountering in all other courses they take in the subject. This latter part of the course will also be more hands-on than the earlier part. Finally, it is worth noting that the course is thematically organized and therefore will include both Indian and non-Indian topics. No pre-existing knowledge of either of the themes or regions is necessary for taking the course.

Assignments:

Group Project Presentation

Mid-term Exam

Final take home paper

Class Participation

Possible Readings:

1. Thomas Haigh, "The History of Computing: An Introduction for the Computer Scientist", in Akera & Asprey eds. *Using History to Teach Computer Science and Related Disciplines* (CRA, 2004), pp. 5-26.
2. Victor Petrov, "The Rose and the Lotus: Bulgarian Electronic Entanglements in India, 1967-1989", *Journal of Contemporary History*, 54:3 (2019), pp. 666-87.

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3. Dwai Banerjee, *Computing in the Time of Decolonization* [Selections]
4. Anindita Ghosh, "An Uncertain 'Coming of the Book': Early Print Cultures in Colonial India", *Book History* 6 (2003), pp. 23-55.
5. Fiona Ross, "Historical technological impacts on the visual representation of language with reference to South-Asian typeforms", *Philological Encounters* 3:4 (2018), pp. 441-68.
6. Amanda Lanzillo, "Translating the Scribe: Lithographic Print and Vernacularization in Colonial India, 1857–1915", *Comparative Critical Studies*, 16:2/3 (2019), pp. 281-300.
7. Daud Ali, "Temporality, Narration and the Problem of History: A View from Western India, c. 1100-1400", *IESHR*, 50:2 (2013), pp. 237-59.
8. Ali Anooshahr, "Mughal Historians the Memory of the Islamic Conquest of India", *IESHR*, 43:3 (2006), pp. 275-300.
9. Partha Chatterjee, "History and the Nationalization of Hinduism", *Social Research*, 59:1 (1992), pp. 111-49.
10. Badri Narayan, "Heroes, Histories, and Booklets", *EPW*, 36:41 (2001), pp. 13-19.
11. Romila Thapar, "Cyclic and Linear Time in Early India", *Museum International*, 57:1 (2005), pp. 19-31.
12. Avner Wishnitzer, "Into the Dark: Power, Light, and Nocturnal Life in 18th-century Istanbul", *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 46:3 (2014), pp. 513-31.
13. Ritika Prasad, "'Time-Sense': Railways and Temporality in Colonial India", *Modern Asian Studies*, 47:4 (2013), pp. 1252-82.
14. Vanessa Ogle, "Whose Time Is It? The Pluralization of Time and the Global Condition, 1870s–1940s", *American Historical Review*, 118:5 (2013), pp. 1376-1402.
15. Kumkum Chatterjee, "Cards and Culture: Cultural Cosmopolitanism in Mughal India", in *On Modern Indian Sensibilities*, pp. 37-58.
16. Partha Chatterjee, "Bombs, Sovereignty and Football", in *The Black Hole of Empire: History of a Global Practice of Power*, pp. 264-311.
17. Ramachandra Guha, "Cricket and Politics in Colonial India", *Past & Present*, 161 (1998), pp. 155-90.

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18. Boria Majumdar, "Cricket in Colonial India: The Bombay Pentangular, 1892 – 1946", *International History of the Journal of Sport*, 19:2/3 (2003), pp. 99-128.
19. David Arnold, "Cholera & Colonialism in British India", *Past & Present*, 113 (1986), pp. 118-51.
20. Frederique Appfel Marglin, "Smallpox in Two Systems of Medicine", UNU/ WIDER Working Paper, 1987.
21. Seema Alavi, "Medical Culture in Transition: Mughal Gentleman Physician and the Native Doctor in Colonial India", *Modern Asian Studies*, 42:5 (2008), pp. 853-97.
22. Kavita Sivaramakrishnan, "An irritable state: the contingent politics of science and suffering in anti-cancer campaigns in South India (1940–1960)", 14 (2019), 529-552.
23. David Arnold, "Burning Issues: Cremation and Incineration in Modern India", *NTM* 24:4 (2016), pp. 393-419.
24. Jonathan Parry, "Ghosts, Greed and Sin: The Occupational Identity of Benares Funeral Priests", *Man* 15:1 (1980), pp. 88-111.
25. Robert Travers, "Death and the Nabob: Imperialism and Commemoration in Eighteenth-century India", *Past & Present*, 197:1 (2007), pp. 83-124.
26. Stuart Blackburn, "The Journey of the Soul: Notes on Funeral Rituals and Oral Texts in Arunachal Pradesh, India". in Arunachal Pradesh, Indien In *Der Abschied von den Toten. Trauerrituale im Kulturvergleich*. Jan Assmann, Franz Maciejewski and Axel Michaels, ed. Göttingen: Wallstein].