



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HISTORY PROGRAMME

HIST 310: Special Topic: The End of the British Empire: Decolonisation and its Anxieties **20 POINTS**

TRIMESTER 1 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 1 July 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Last assessment item due: 15 June 2015

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: LBLT118, on Monday, 2 March, 3.10 - 5.00 PM [Introductory lecture in the first week only]

From second week a weekly two hourly seminar will be held on:

Group 1: Mondays, 3.10 - 5.00 PM.

Venue: LBLT118

Group 2: Wednesdays 9.00 – 10.50 AM

Venue: KK204

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Professor Sekhar Bandyopadhyay

Room No: OK 411

Phone: 463 6772

Email: sekhar.bandyopadhyay@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Wednesdays 11.00 to 12.00 noon.

Communication of additional information

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

Prescription

This course will focus on the demise of the British Empire. From a discussion of decolonisation process in general, it will move on to examine the particular case study of decolonisation and postcolonial developments in the Indian subcontinent.

Course content

This course will focus on the demise of the British Indian Empire. I will also examine the pressures of decolonisation and some postcolonial developments in the successor states of South Asia.

The main objective of this course is to look into the complex history of how the British Empire functioned, and examine the various economic, political and ideological pressures that contributed to decolonisation or dismantling of the empire. This course will interrogate the concept of decolonisation, which did not just mean a transfer of power from a colonial to an indigenous elite, but involved a complex historical experience for the people of the postcolonial nation. This course will thus also look into the various aspects of nationalism in a particular part of the British Empire, i.e., India. It will also look at some of the postcolonial challenges that the new nation-states in the Indian subcontinent faced in the initial years of freedom.

NB: extra information may be included on Blackboard.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students passing the course should be able to:

1. analyse and critique the nature of British colonial rule and theories of decolonisation
2. interpret nationalist ideologies and popular movements that challenged colonial rule in Asia-Africa
3. identify economic and international pressures that contributed to the demise of the British Empire
4. interpret the complexities of the decolonisation process in newly independent countries
5. compare and contrast problems and challenges of postcolonial nations.

Teaching format

This course will be run as a seminar course.

In the first week students are expected to attend one introductory lecture on Monday 2 March, 3.10 - 5.00 pm in LBLT118.

From the second week the class will be divided into two groups (Group 1: Mondays 3.10 - 5.00 PM in LBLT118 and Group 2: Wednesdays 9.00 – 10.50 am in KK204) and will have to attend one two hourly seminar every week. There will be no lectures from the second week onward.

Each seminar will involve a brief introduction by the lecturer, followed by student presentations on that week's readings, to be followed by general discussion. Each student will have to make a presentation on one week's readings; this presentation will be assessed.

Groups will be made and presentation schedules will be posted on Blackboard during the first week of the trimester.

Mandatory course requirements

To pass the course students must achieve an overall pass mark of 50%. In addition, students must:

1. submit written work specified for this course, on or by the due dates or within the History Programme's schedule of extensions and penalties;
2. attend at least 7 seminars; in case of illness, this requirement will be waived if a medical certificate is provided;
3. make a presentation on one week's seminar readings;
4. submit the take home test by the due date.

You are permitted to miss up to 2 seminars without penalty. Extra absences will result in a student failing course requirements, except in cases of serious illness (supported by a medical certificate), or serious personal crisis.

Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester, approximately 13 hours a week across the trimester. This total includes the following:

- attendance at weekly seminars; 22 hours
- completion of all set weekly readings for seminars: 44 hours
- research and writing for assessment tasks: 134 hours

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Book review, 1500 words	30	1-2	30 March
2	Research essay 3000 words	40	1-5	25 May
3	Oral presentation (5-10 minutes)	5	1-5	Schedule will be circulated
3	Take-home test (1000 words)	25	1-5	Take-home test will be due on 15 June.

Marking criteria

Marking for assignments 1 and 2 will take into account your writing skills, ability to present a coherent argument by using an array of secondary and primary sources and your ability to use proper referencing techniques.

Students are also expected to make an oral presentation (5-10 minutes) on the readings for a week. It is to assess their oral communication skill, as well as the quality of their participation in seminar discussions.

The test will assess your overall understanding of the content of the course, your analytical skill and ability to construct an argument. You will be given a general analytical question which you will have to answer in 1000 words.

Submission and return of work

Submission: All work submitted for assessment must be dropped off in HARD COPY at the History Office in the slots provided with an essay cover sheet. We reserve the right to ask for an electronic copy of any assessable work for checking in Turnitin.com (see www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)

Graded essays will be returned to you in tutorials in the first instance, and then returned to the History Office, OK 405, where they can be collected between the hours of 1.00-2.00 pm, Monday to Friday. We will notify students via Blackboard when graded essays are available (generally between 2-3 weeks after the date submitted).

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions may only be granted in exceptional circumstances, but **all extensions require the student to provide documentation**. If granted an extension, students must agree to a new due date. Contact your course coordinator/tutor as soon as a problem emerges. Extension forms are available from the History Programme office.

Penalties

History Programme policy stipulates that late submission of essays is penalised. Students lose 5% for the first day late and 2% thereafter for a maximum of 10 working days. After 10 days, work can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked.

Note that **Monday 15 June 2015** is the final date on which any written work can be accepted by the Programme. The provision for late submission with penalty does not apply beyond this date. Permission to submit work after 15 June must be sought in writing from the Head of Programme, and will only be granted for *serious* medical reasons (supported by medical certificate), or in case of *serious* personal crisis.

Set texts

A book of readings for HIST 310 will be available from Vic Books. Please see their website: www.vicbooks.co.nz for details on buying Books of Readings. We will advise enrolled students via Blackboard when the Book of Readings are available to purchase.

Recommended reading

It is advised that you read one of the survey texts on modern Indian history (listed below) at the beginning of the course.

Ishita Banerjee-Dube, *A History of Modern India*, (New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2015).

S. Bose and A. Jalal, *Modern South Asia*, (London and New York: Routledge, 1998).

Barbara D. and Thomas R. Metcalf, *A concise history of India* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001).

Peter Robb, *A History of India* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2002).

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition and After: A History of Modern India* (Second edition, New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2015).

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in the box below:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz