Course Title: The History of India
Course Code: HIS 188
Instructor: C. Ryan Perkins Ph.D.

Course Summary: This course explores the intertwined histories of tradition, colonialism, and nationalism in South Asia from the early modern period to the postcolonial period. Students will be encouraged to explore the interactions between different traditions in the making of modern South Asia and to consider the political and epistemological consequences of these cultural choices in the contemporary South Asian scene. We will examine topics such as caste, religious revivalism, and reform movements, the local and colonial economy, scriptural traditions, and notions of the modern and the traditional. While the focus of this course is on South Asia, our investigation will be framed within the larger global context of competing colonial powers. The course not only provides a broad survey of South Asian history from the early modern period to that of post-independence, but also familiarity with different historiographical methods and a broader context for understanding British colonial history.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Students must attend at least 7 class sessions.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  - Students must attend at least 7 class sessions, and complete an 8-10 page paper on a topic related to the history of South Asia.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1 (April 3): Early India to c. 1500
- Hind, Hindustan, India: What’s in a Name and the Writing of Indian History
- Religion and Community in Classical India

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
Week 2 (April 10): The Mughals and the Arrival of Colonial Powers on India’s Shores
• Islam and Indian History: How did Islam come to India?
• From Akbar to Aurangzeb: Interpreting the Mughals in the Light of Contemporary India
• Early European Trade and India

Week 3 (April 17): Commerce and War, 1750-1820
• From Trade to Political Dominion: The Story of the East India Company
• The Battle of Plassey: French and British Alliances
• How did the small island nation of Britain come to rule much of the subcontinent?

Week 4 (April 24): Colonial Social Transformations: Caste, Class, Sati, and Gender
• The Creation of Colonial Knowledge
• Women and Reform
• Subalterns and the Writing of History

Week 5 (May 1): 1857: Mutiny, Rebellion, or War of Independence?
• In Class Debate

Week 6 (May 8): Community and Identity in Nineteenth Century Religious Cultures
• Islamic reform and Hindu revivalism
• Communalism
• Hindi/Urdu Debates

Week 7 (May 15): Nationalism
• The Indian National Congress and The Muslim League
• Gandhi, Nehru, and Jinnah

Week 8 (May 22): Partition and Independence
• Borders, Migration, and Bloodshed
• Gandhi’s Assassination
• Short Stories and Partition

Week 9 (June 5): Tradition and Nationalism in Independent India and Pakistan
• The War of 1971 and the Formation of Bangladesh
• Politics and the State
• Hindu Nationalism
• Islamic Terrorism

Week 10 (June 12): Bollywood and India Today
• Film Viewing and End of Class Feast