

HIST 407/507: Cities of South Asia



Prof. Arafaat A. Valiani
Office location: McKenzie 369
Email: valiani@uoregon.edu

The primary purpose of this course is for you to learn how to design, research and write a research paper or case study (18-20 double-spaced pages), on a subject of your choice related to the course, with my support as well as that of the University of Oregon libraries. The seminar is structured to offer you the necessary tools to undertake a research project in terms of offering readings that are germane to all of us, guiding you methodologically, honing your capacity for discussion, research and writing.

This course will do this by examining the economic and social dimensions of cities in South Asia along with comparisons outside the region. The course draws on perspectives and methodologies from economic, organizational and urban sociology, and South Asian Studies. We begin the course by exploring the economic and social effects of urban planning on cities. We examine the role of businesses of various size in shaping the economic and cultural life of South Asian and American cities. A course that focuses on cities cannot be complete

without an examination of globalization for which media is an important theme. Therefore will analyze how both new and old forms of media shape the creation of urban markets.

By studying these cities from various perspectives, course participants will trace how ideas of commerce and industry, hygiene and freedom have influenced urban life in South Asia and the comparative cases. The particular visions of urban life that we will study also make powerful connections between the city and identity. By surveying these cities in these particular ways we will gain an understanding of the relationship between religious, ethnic, gender and class affiliations (among other categories of social identity), as they shape the economy, landscape and culture of cities.

Format: Seminar.

Requirements: active participation in class discussions (includes weekly questions on the reading), class presentation(s), final research paper or case study (18-20 pages for undergraduates; 25-30 pages for graduate students). I will meet with graduate students separately and we will discuss some additional readings.

Grade Distribution

1. Participation	20 %
2. In class presentations	20 %
3. Approved paper description with bibliography	10 % (Due by the 3 rd week/Meeting 3)
4. Preliminary Draft of Paper	15 % (Completed by 9 th week/Meeting 9)
5. Final Draft of Paper	35 % (Due one week after the last class)

Research paper: In consultation with the professor you may choose your research topic. The readings are significantly broad and well crafted for you to choose a set of concepts to design your project and paper. Graduate students may select their topics so that they are directed towards their own areas of interest and research though the same deadlines apply to them.

One of the most important things about a research paper is to work on it in parts which makes the task manageable. This course is designed to help you construct your paper by including a session in the library with the history librarian who can help you to find primary sources. By the third week you need to submit a one-page paper description in which you identify a topic, discuss the organization of your paper, state the primary sources with which you will work and a set of questions you seek to answer in your paper. Because making presentations on your paper is an important way for you to conceptualize and make coherent your paper, I also require to briefly discuss your paper topic in class and present some of your findings near the end of term. During the week of Meeting 9, I will meet with each of you to discuss a preliminary draft of your paper. The paper is due one week after the last meeting and as you can see from the schedule of assignments be prepared

to plan ahead so that your paper is completed on time (late submissions will not be accepted).

I encourage you to take advantage of my scheduled office hours (listed on the department website) or to make an appointment to see me. If you have physical or learning differences that require special accommodations official notice from Disability Services (see <http://ds.uoregon.edu>) is required. I will do everything in my power to address all documented needs.

Required Texts:

Nikhil Rao, *House but No Garden*

Matthew Hull, *Government of Paper*

All required texts are on reserve, in multiple copies, in the Knight Library. All other required readings will be provided on Blackboard.

Course Schedule (this may be adjusted as we move through the term, I will announce these changes in advance).

Meeting 1

Introductions and Explanation of the Research Paper

Part 1. Introduction to the course and its goals, seminar members.

Part 2. Library session on historical research and primary sources in the University of Oregon libraries.

Meeting 2

Planning in Bombay (Mumbai)

Nikhil Rao, *House, but No Garden* (Introduction to Chapter 1-3)

Meeting 3 Paper topic descriptions due.

Housing Markets in Bombay and the Culture of Cities

Nikhil Rao, *House, but No Garden* (Introduction to Chapter 4-6)

Meeting 4

Part 1: States and Cities (case study: Islamabad)

Matthew Hull, *Government of Paper* (Introduction, Chapters 1-2)

Part 2: Discussion of paper topics in class.

Meeting 5

Part 1: Organizations and Cities (case study: Islamabad)

Matthew Hull, *Government of Paper* (Chapters 3-5)

Meeting 6

What is a case study or research paper? Methodological Analysis of two (short) case studies.

Part 1: Case study of Dubai:

“Sheik Mohammed and the Making of ‘Dubai, Inc.’”, Anthony Mayo, Nitin Nohria, Umaimah Mendhro, Johnathan Cromwell, Harvard Business School, August 2010, Study 9-410-063.

Part 2: Journal Article on Singapore and Global Labor Migration:

“Sikhs and the City: Sikh history and diasporic practice in Singapore” by Gerard McCann, *Modern Asian Studies*, Volume 45, Issue 06, November 2011, pp. 1465-1498.

Meeting 7

Embedding Multinational Corporations in Asia

-Article: ‘State of the Art: The Social Embeddedness of Multinational Companies’, 2012, *Social-Economic Review*, 20.

-Short case studies of Nortel Networks in China and Black Decker Eastern Hemisphere in *North American Firms in East Asia, 1999*, edited by Paul W. Beamish and A.E. Safarian

Meeting 8

Media and Urban Markets

Ravi Sundaram, *Pirate Modernity: Delhi's Media Urbanism* (Chapter 2-5) (On blackboard).

Meeting 9

Preliminary draft discussions this week, individually and in my office, no meeting.

Meeting 10

Paper/case study Presentations

Final Draft of Research Paper due one week after the last day of class.