Spring 2011 **ANCIENT INDIA** Cynthia Talbot

HIS 346C (#39610) // ANS 346C (#33190) // AHC 330 (#31835)

MWF 1100 -1200 JGB 2.102

Course Description

This course covers the history and culture of South Asia from its protohistoric beginnings in the Indus Valley through the period of the early empires of the Mauryas and Guptas (roughly, 2500 B.C.E. to 500 C.E.). In chronological sequence, we will examine the origins of South Asian civilization, Vedic society, the second urbanization and the emergence of early states as well as Buddhism and Jainism, the significance of the Mauryan empire, the influx of peoples and ideas between 200 B.C.E. and 300 C.E., the growth of brahmin orthodoxy and ideas on political strategy, the spread of historic civilization outside the North Indian heartland, and the nature of Gupta culture and polity.

The emphasis will be on understanding the general patterns of socio-cultural change rather than the specifics of political history. Considerable attention will therefore be given to social organization and ideology, religious institutions and patronage, conceptions of kingship, and the evolution of classical culture. The class format is primarily lecture but several discussion sessions will be held during the semester.

Note: This course carries the Global Cultures flag.

Instructor Contact Information:

Office Hours	Wednesdays 1-3 pm & by appointment
Office	GAR 3.106; tel. 475-9303
E-Mail Address	<ctalbot@mail.utexas.edu>

Readings (available for purchase at University Co-op & on reserve at PCL):

1) Burjor Avari, *India: The Ancient Past* [textbook]
2) Richard H. Davis, *Global India circa 100 CE*
3) Patrick Olivelle, trans., *The Law Code of Manu*
4) Kalidasa, *The Recognition of Sakuntala*, trans. W. J. Johnson
5) several essays listed on schedule and available on Blackboard
6) websites on Harappan civilization, listed on schedule

Requirements & Grading:

In addition to the textbook, students will be reading translations of original sources as well as some secondary scholarship. Students will be required to write three short essays (500 words each) on the assigned readings, in response to questions supplied

by the instructor. There will be two in-class examinations, consisting of both short answer and essay questions, and a take-home exam, which will be entirely essay. Student participation in the course will also be measured: attendance will be taken at the mandatory discussion sessions and irregularly at other times.

Various aspects of student performance will be weighted as follows:

3 reading responses	15%
2 in-class exams	50%
take-home exam	30%
attendance & participation	5%

Pluses and minuses to the final letter grade will be applied in this course.

Course Policies:

-- I will use the course web site on Blackboard to post readings and make announcements relating to the course – check the site regularly for new information. It is your responsibility to maintain a functioning email account linked to Blackboard.

-- Regular attendance in class is expected and any gaps in knowledge resulting from lack of attendance are the student's responsibility. However, students are urged to contact the instructor if personal circumstances lead to prolonged absence.

-- Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class schedules. It is the policy of UT-Austin that you must notify each of your instructors at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates you will be absent to observe a religious holy day.

-- Students must be prepared to turn in their papers and take examinations on the specified dates. Late assignments will be subject to a grade penalty, to be applied at the instructor's discretion. Students will not be allowed to make up exams that are missed without prior approval of the instructor or documented proof of good reason (such as severe illness or death in the family).

-- Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. Plagiarism means not only the verbatim quoting of another's work without attribution, but also the presentation of another's ideas as one's own. Please be aware that I will refer all instances of plagiarism (even a paragraph long!) to the Dean of Students.

-- Students with disabilities who need special accommodations should notify the instructor by presenting a letter prepared by the Services for Students with Disabilities Office. To ensure that the most appropriate accommodations can be provided, students should contact the SSD Office at 471-6259 or 471-4641 TTY.

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Schedule of Class Meetings & Assignments

WK 1: STUDYING ANCIENT INDIA

Wed. 1/19 Introduction to Course
Fri. 1/21 South Asia's Physical & Cultural Geography

reading: *textbook* chap. 1

WK 2: HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION: ARCHAEOLOGY

Mon. 1/24 Overview of Harappan Civilization
Wed. 1/26 Architecture & City Layout in the Indus Valley
Fri. 1/28 Artifacts & Writing: Harappan Riddles

reading: *textbook* chap. 2 (skim) & chap. 3
& Jonathan Mark Kenoyer, "Around the Indus in 90 Slides"
<http://www.harappa.com/indus/indus1.html>;
& "The Indus Riddle," India Today, Jan. 26, 1998
<http://www.india-today.com/itoday/26011998/indus.html>

WK 3: FROM HARAPPAN TO INDO-ARYAN

Mon. 1/31 Who were the Harappans?
Wed. 2/2 Collapse or Decline of Harappan Civilization?
Fri. 2/4 Alternate Views: The Indo-Aryan Controversy

reading: *textbook* chap. 4, pp. 60-69,
& Thomas R. Trautmann, "Introduction," in *Aryan Debate*

WK 4: VEDIC RELIGION & SOCIETY

Mon. 2/7 **discussion // reading response** due 11 pm Sun. 2/6
Wed. 2/9 Vedic Literature & Religion
Fri. 2/11 Society of the Vedic Period

reading: textbook chap. 4, pp. 69-85
& Laurie L. Patton, "Veda and Upanisad," in *The Hindu World,* edited by Sushil Mittal & Gene Thursby

WK 5: CLASSICAL EPICS

Mon. 2/14 Epic Memories of the Late Vedic Age
Wed. 2/16 catch up, exam review
Fri. 2/18 **exam 1**

WK 6: BUDDHISM & THE SECOND URBANIZATION

Mon. 2/21 Overview of the Second Urbanization
Wed. 2/23 Buddhism & Other Religions of Renunciation
Fri. 2/25 Life of the Buddha

reading: *textbook* chap. 5

WK 7: ASOKA & THE MAURYAN EMPIRE

Mon. 2/28 *Story of India #2: The Power of Ideas*
Wed. 3/2 Rise of the Mauryas
Fri. 3/4 Asoka's Inscriptions

reading: *textbook* chap. 6;
& Romila Thapar trans., "Rock and Pillar Edicts of Asoka," in *Ashoka and the Decline of the Mauryas*

WK 8: ASOKA & THE BUDDHIST COMMUNITY

Mon. 3/7 Asoka's Ideology & Policies
Wed. 3/9 **discussion // reading response** due 11 pm Tues. 3/8
Fri. 3/11 The Mauryan Legacy

reading: *textbook* chap. 7;
& Max Deeg, "From the Iron Wheel to Bodhisattvahood: Asoka in Buddhist Culture and Memory," in *Asoka in History & Historical Memory*, ed. Patrick Olivelle

-- SPRING BREAK--

WK 9: COSMOPOLITANISM OF AGE BETWEEN EMPIRES

Mon. 3/21 Sanchi: A Buddhist Pilgrimage Site // video
Wed. 3/23 Cosmopolitan Dynasties, 200 BC-AD 300
Fri. 3/25 International Trade in the Age between Empires

reading: Richard H. Davis, *Global India circa 100 CE*

WK 10: SUMMING UP: EMPIRE & AFTERMATH

Mon. 3/28 catch up, exam review
Wed. 3/30 work on take-home **exam 2**
Fri. 4/1 work on take-home **exam 2,** due 11 pm Sun. 4/3

WK 11: LAW & BRAHMIN ORTHODOXY

Mon. 4/4 Dharmasastra & the *Laws of Manu*

Wed. 4/6 Caste & Non-Violence in Brahmin Thought
Fri. 4/8 Women in Brahmin Thought & Practice

reading: Patrick Olivelle trans., *The Law Code of Manu,*
Introduction & chaps. 1-6

WK 12: EMPIRE REVIVED: CLASSICAL AGE OF THE GUPTAS

Mon. 4/11 Samudragupta & the Allahabad Inscription
Wed. 4/13 Candragupta II & the Golden Age
Fri. 4/15 **discussion // reading response** due 11 pm Thurs. 4/14

reading: *textbook* chap. 8;
& Patrick Olivelle trans., *The Law Code of Manu*, chaps. 7-12

WK 13: CLASSICAL CULTURE & SOCIETY

Mon. 4/18 Sakuntala: Epic Heroine in Classical Drama
Wed. 4/20 Gupta Period Art & Science
Fri. 4/22 Religion in the Gupta Age

reading: Kalidasa, *The Recognition of Sakuntala*, trans. W. J. Johnson

WK 14: ASPECTS OF ANCIENT HISTORY & CULTURE

Mon. 4/25 South India's Ankle Bracelet Epic
Wed. 4/27 Political Philosophy in Animal Fables
Fri. 4/29 Decline of the Gupta Empire

WK 15: OVERVIEW, ANCIENT INDIA

Mon. 5/2 Ancient India in Closing
Wed. 5/4 catch up, exam review
Fri. 5/6 **exam 3**