This course is designed to analyse the main developments in eighteenth century India along the following axes:

1) an overview of the Mughal polity;
2) the breakdown of Mughal imperial system and the emergence of regional political formations as distinct, and not merely, 'successor' regimes;
3) the social and cultural contexts of regional growth and the shaping of interconnected regional economies;
and (4) the ramifications of the early-colonial intervention.

The break-up of the themes is as follows:

I. The Mughal Empire in the late 17th and early 18th centuries: a historiographical and thematic overview:
   • historiography of the decline of the Empire.
   • the legacy and the crisis;
   • centralization question;
   • emerging fissures in the imperial system;

II. The politics of reorganization of the old regime:
   • the centre, local society and the countryside;
   • the urban and the urbane in the new milieu;
   • consolidation of religious gentries: inam, madad-i-ma’ash and la-kharaj;
   • the ‘new’ social groups and their political participation;
   • landed magnates and control over local societies;
   • the regional political orders within the Mughal political ambit and without: some regional case studies.

III. Economic implications of regionalization:
   • ‘military fiscalism’ and zones of military resource consumption in the regions;
   • local resource controllers and regional economies;
   • bankers, local business and regional state finance;
   • money and agrarian financing: the ijaradari;
   • landed and religious gentries;
   • production and market networks;
   • merchants and the profile of intra-regional trade.

IV. The coming of the East India Company:
   • the emergence of new political equations: some regional case studies;
   • changing notions of authority and jurisdiction;
   • state and landed property;
   • new revenue experiments in Bengal;
   • the Permanent Settlement;
   • economic intervention: monopoly trading and the spread of private trading interests;
   • impact on indigenous capital and business;
   • state and market;
   • the nature of agrarian commercialism;
   • the drain of wealth: quantities and implications.

V. Tradition and Transition in the 18th century:
   • Ideological, social and cultural constituents of the new regimes
   • The end of early modern India?
Please note: Journal Articles will be referred to separately

First Readings:

- Subrahmanyam, Sanjay (ed.), *Merchants, Markets and the State in Early Modern India*, Delhi, 1990 (selected articles).
Further Readings: (selected chapters or portions of text)

- Alavi, Seema, Sepoys and the Company: Tradition and Transition in Northern India, 1770-1830, Delhi, 1995.
- Chatterjee, Kumkum, Merchants, Politics and Society in Early Modern India, Bihar: 1733-1820, Leiden, 1996.
- Chandra, Satish, The Eighteenth Century in India: Its Economy and the Role of the Marathas, the Jats, the Sikhs and the Afghans, Delhi, 1986.
- Chaudhury, Susil, From Prosperity to Decline: Eighteenth Century Bengal, Delhi, 1995.
- Datta, Rajat (ed), Rethinking a Millennium. Perspectives on Indian History from the Eighth to the Eighteenth Century, New Delhi, 2008.
- Prakash, Om and Lombard, Denys (ed.), Commerce and Culture in the Bay of Bengal, 1500-1800, Delhi, 1999.
- Robb, Peter (ed.), Meanings of Agriculture: Essays in South Asian History and Economics, Delhi, 1996.
- Husain, Iqbal, The Rise and Decline of the Ruhela Chieftaincies in 18th Century India, Delhi, 1994.
Ludden, David, Peasant History in South India, Delhi, 1989 (esp., chapters 4 and 5).
Marshall, P.J., Bengal. The British Bridgehead.
Nightingale, Pamela, Trade and Empire in Western India,
Ray, Ratanalekha, Change in Bengal Agrarian Society, Delhi, 1979.
Siddiqi, Noman Ahmad, Land Revenue Administration under the Mughals, 1700-1750, Bombay, 1970.
Trivedi, Madhu, The Emergence of Hindustani Tradition. Music, Dance and Drama in North India, 13th to 19th Centuries, New Delhi, 2012.