Lecture Course (optional) M.A Course No. M 41425; M.Phil. P41221

Mode of Evaluation:
2 Tutorials (1 credit each) + 1 End Semester Exam (2 credits)

M.A: 4 credits; MPhil: 2 credits

Method of Instruction: Lectures + Discussions

Reader available at Shubho Photostat. All students must purchase the Reader, and complete readings for the week before each class.

Course Description

How is the modern city distinct from its historical forebears? How has urbanization over the past 200 years marked a sharp shift away from earlier processes? This course will consider the transformations of urban forms, of economic and social life in the city, of the techniques of governmental power, of modes of association, conflict or solidarity, in the time of modernity. It will focus on three interrelated themes: the modern city as a site of accumulation and the exercise of governmental power; the design of cities, especially the origins and consequences of urban planning; the social life of cities, with particular reference to how modern notions of citizenship were forged or tested through mass movements, the law, or in everyday spatial practice.

While the focus of the course will be on the history of modern Indian cities, there will be continuous references to, and comparisons with, other locations of the world. Throughout the course, attention will be paid to the ways in which existing hierarchies, whether of caste, class, ethnicity or gender, were created, transformed or deepened in the modern period.

Week One: The City in the Age of Industry: The Victorian City and its counterparts


Week Two: Deindustrialisation and deurbanisation in early colonial India

Atiya Habeeb in “Urban Atrophy in Colonial India: Some Demographic Indicators” The City in Indian History (Delhi: Manohar, 1991), 149-71.

**Week Three: Urban Typologies: Port Cities, Qasbas, Temple Towns**


Partha Mitter “The Early British Port Cities of India: Their Planning and Architecture Circa 1640-1757”, pp. 95-114.

**Week Four: The Divided City: Cantonments, Hill Stations and Canal Towns**


**Week Five: Signs of the Modern: Paris, Vienna**


**Week Six: Utopias and Dystopias**


**Week Seven: The City Under Seige: Delhi and Lucknow 1857**

Narayani Gupta, Delhi Between the Empires (Delhi: OUP, 1981), pp. 70-96.


**Week Eight: Moral and Medical Panics**


**Week Nine: Labour and Capital: Kanpur, Bombay, London**

Rajnarayan Chandavarkar “From Neighbourhood to Nation: the rise and fall of the Left in Bombay’s Girangaon in the twentieth Century” in History Culture and the Indian city (Cambridge University Press, 2009), pp. 121-190


**Week Ten: The City Imagined**


**Week Eleven: The Modernist City: Brasilia, Singapore**


Chua Beng Huat, Communitarian Ideology and Democracy in Singapore (Routledge, 1997), pp. 124-168

**Week Twelve: The Monumental City**


**Week Thirteen: The Challenges of the Contemporary City**


**Week Fourteen: Hope and Despair**


**Week Fifteen: Utopia or Oblivion?**

Marcus Daechsel “Seeing like an Expert, Failing like a state: Interpreting the Fate of a Satellite Town in Early Post Colonial Pakistan” *Colonial and Post-Colonial Governance of Islam: Continuities and Ruptures.* ed. Marcel Maussen; Veit Bader; Annelies Moors. (Amsterdam : Amsterdam University Press, 2011) p. 155-174