

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester II Year 81-82

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
History 142	History of South Asia to the Present	Mr. Frykenberg

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Life in the subcontinent of India -- today holding the countries of India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal -- seems so different from that of the West that many look at people of South Asia as if they were beings on another planet. Yet nearly a billion people now live in South Asia. Moreover, world peace may well depend upon the human aspirations and excitements, the hopes and fears of individuals who inhabit that part of the globe. Our understanding of the countries, the social structures, the varieties of cultural heritage, the historical legacies, the economic conditions, and the communal, ethnic, or religious conflicts of these peoples may be no less crucial.

One can hardly appreciate the current issues of geopolitical pressures, of international stability, or of contemporary politics in this part of the world without knowing about the past from whence such issues have emerged. But to gain such knowledge may perhaps also enable us to learn a bit more about ourselves and about our own problems.

This course will make a rapid survey of the history of one of the world's oldest civilizations, tracing its development down to the present day.

LECTURES

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 a.m., lectures will be interspersed with discussions based upon assigned readings, with occasional films and other special presentations.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

One short review essay of 1200 words will be due at the end of the tenth week.

Two examinations, one in the sixth week and another at the end of the course, will call for short answers and short essays.

Intelligent participation in class discussions may also be important.

GRADING SYSTEM

Normal A to F system.

REQUIRED READINGS

As assigned in syllabus (attached), these are taken mainly from

Adam Watson, A Concise History of India

Stanley Wolpert, A New History of India.

All assigned readings are from works available in paperback editions.