

**Issues in Modern Asia 1: Selected Topics**  
**Postcolonial Readings: Colonialism, Christianity and Culture**  
**HIST 4070/7820 T01**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA**

**Instructor: Ravi Vaitheespara**

**Office: 408 Fletcher Argue**

**Office Phone: 474- 8404**

**Email: [vaithees@ms.umanitoba.ca](mailto:vaithees@ms.umanitoba.ca)**

**Office hours: Thursday 1-3.00 pm or by appointment.**

**Lectures: Tues: 3.00-6.00 PM**

**Place: 300 Tier**

**Course Description**

South Asia, a region with a long and complex colonial and mission history and, as the site of some of the most fervent and extremist forms of cultural nationalism, has also, not surprisingly, produced some of the most interesting and innovative scholarly theorizing on the relationship between colonialism, Christian missionary practice and culture. These more recent Postcolonial and Post-Orientalist approaches to the study of colonialism and its relationship to culture and cultural nationalism have, for the most part, replaced earlier approaches that saw the colonial encounter in strictly contrastive, oppositional and binary terms. This seminar then is devoted to exploring and interrogating these more recent innovative Post-Colonial and Post –Orientalist approaches to the study of colonialism, missionary practice, nationalism and culture.

**Required Texts:**

Peter van der Veer, *Imperial Encounters: Religion and Modernity in India and Britain*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2001.

Partha Chatterjee, *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse*, London: Zed Books,

Ashis Nandy, *The Intimate Enemy: Loss and Recovery of Self Under Colonialism*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2010.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR, READINGS AND PRESENTATION SCHEDULE:**

The class will meet weekly in seminar format. Students are encouraged to play an active part in the class by leading and sustaining class discussions. After the first few weeks, students will take turns preparing a brief (Approximately 1 to 2 pages) ‘think piece’ which they will use to engage with the readings and elicit discussions. Since all students will be on email, these pieces should be sent to the instructor for distribution to all members of the class at least a day preceding the seminar. Think pieces will be graded on a P-, P, P+ basis and a final grade will be assigned for their cumulative value plus the student’s ability to defend them orally and stimulate discussion in class. Think pieces should consider the following questions:

- Central thesis of the work in question
- What insights does the article reveal about the subject
- How would you locate this writing within the wider scholarship on the subject?
- What questions do the readings provoke?

#### **ATTENDANCE , PARTICIPATION, MISSED CLASSES:**

Active participation forms a significant portion of the final grade. Attendance alone will count for only a small fraction of the final grade so expect to come to class prepared to either pose or respond to questions, to discuss ideas, or to challenge the opinions raised by the discussion leader.

#### **EVALUATION:**

For both **Undergraduate** and **Graduate** Students

Seminar participation	20%
Discussion Papers and Presentation	10%
Analytical Paper #1 including paper proposal	30 % due Oct. 19th
Research Paper #2 including paper proposal	40% due Dec. 7th

Paper length: For His 4070 students 2000-2500 words, or 8-10 pages; for **HIST 7820** students 2400-3750 words, or 10-15 pages.

Evaluative feedback will be provided by the voluntary withdrawal date of November 17th, 2010.

Final grades subject to review by Department.

#### **Assignments**

Instructions for seminar topics, written and oral presentations as well as for the written assignments will be provided by the beginning of the semester. In general, written assignments should focus on critically analyzing the topic chosen. Students are encouraged to consult journal articles in addition to recent monographs on the subject. Use of primary sources if available is also encouraged. Essays must be typed, double-spaced and documented with footnotes and bibliography. Students should use humanities citation style with footnotes. For a guide to proper citation consult Kate Tarabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertation*. (Reference copy available at the Dafoe Library. Call No: LB 2369 T8 1987.)

#### **Academic Dishonesty**

“The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test, or examination is F on the paper and F for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is being suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.” See pages 27-28 of the University of Manitoba undergraduate Calendar, 2010-2011.

**Grade Appeals & Unreturned term work**

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work have been made available to them. Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

**Policy on Late Papers**

To ensure fairness to those who complete their work on time, a penalty of 2% per day will be assessed on essays handed in after the due date. The penalty will only be waived in case of verifiable medical reasons or personal bereavement. A note of explanation with supporting documentation is required in these exceptional circumstances.

**Grade Distribution**

A+	(90-100)	C+	(65-69)
A	(80-89)	C	(60-64)
B+	(75-79)	D	(50-59)
B	(70-74)	F	(0-49)