

Short title : National war or sepoy mutiny?

HIS 350L • Uprising In India-1857
 39845 • Fall 2013
 Meets T 330pm-630pm CBA 4.342
 (also listed as ANS 361)

HIS 350L. *National War of Independence or Sepoy Mutiny? The 1857 uprising in India*

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 Office Hours: Monday 5-6 PM; Tuesday 10-11 AM; other times by appointment.

Blackboard site: log on regularly and read announcements, chatroom messages etc. You are strongly encouraged to post to the chat-room and respond to each other on it – comments on the readings made before the class meets will be reckoned as evidence of participation.

Reading: There is no required textbook; all the readings and notes will be available on Blackboard.

List of required readings:

1. Heather Streets "Rebellion of 1857", *Teaching South Asia* vol.1, 2001, pp.1-16
2. Eric Stokes *The Peasant Armed* Cambridge University Press 1989, 1-15 & 226-243
3. James Kennedy *The Great Indian Mutiny* London: Ward & Co. 1858.
4. G.O. Trevelyan *Competition-Wallah* London: Macmillan 1895 (free Google-book), pp.238-281
5. "Letter from the Chief Commissioner" in Parl. Papers, East India 1859, Sess.2, pp.1-9
6. S.A. Khan *Causes of the Indian Revolt* 1873. Reprint: Lahore, n.d
7. *A Lady's Diary of the Siege of Lucknow* London: Murray, 1858
8. Proclamations of the Rebel Leaders – FSUP. Vol. VI, pp.165-86
9. W. Forbes-Mitchell *Reminiscences of the Great Mutiny* [1893] Google Books, pp.172-93
10. S.A. Khan *History of the Bijnor Rebellion*, Lansing: Michigan State University, 1972, 1-

11. Joyce Lebra-Chapman *The Rani of Jhansi* Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press 1986
12. Surendrath Sen *Eighteen Fifty-seven* Delhi: Ministry of Education 1957, pp.264-305
13. V.D. Savarkar *Indian War of Independence* Bombay, 1947, pp.457-94
14. F.W. Buckler "Political Theory of the Indian Mutiny" *Trans. Royal Hist. Soc.* Vol. 5, 1922 pp. 71-100; Replies by others and rejoinder by Buckler *Trans. Royal Hist. Soc.* Vol. 6, pp.131-166
15. Trial Papers of the 'King of Delhi' *Durable url*
http://gateway.proquest.com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/openurl?url_ver=Z39.88-2004&res_dat=xri:hcpp-us&rft_dat=xri:hcpp:fulltext:1859-035054

Description: This course aims to introduce students to the problems faced in historical research via the scrutiny of the sources and historical writings on one of the most contentious episodes in the history of the British in India. The year 1857 saw the most violent and widespread attempt ever made to destroy the British empire in South Asia. It was ferociously suppressed after a war of re-conquest lasting over a year. Various episodes in this struggle entered British imperial folklore and legend, while Indian nationalists gave them radically different meanings. Students will be required to critically examine texts and images (including video-film) generated by these controversies and confront them, in turn, with the primary sources. The readings/viewings are designed with this end in view. The crafting of coherent prose narratives from primary sources is the major focus of this course. This will be approached gradually, via initial papers that 'digest' primary sources, and the two longer papers that integrate several sources into analytic narratives.

- In order to generate informed discussion, it is essential that the reading for each week be done **before** the class meets.
- Students are required to attend every session. Anybody unable to attend a particular session will have to provide an adequately documented explanation *and* write an analytical report on that week's reading/viewing by the next meeting. Failure to do so (after the first session) will lose 10% of the grade. Those who register *after* the first meeting will need to read the materials presented there.

This is a writing intensive course. Papers will be assessed on the basis of:

structure, mechanics, comprehension of the material read and finally, ability to evaluate and critically assess sources *and* synthesize ideas and information from multiple sources into a coherent whole. You are also required to substantiate your statements with citations, using either footnotes or in-text bracketed references in a consistent way. *A grading template is available for consultation if you wish to see it.*

Students must complete all assignments and exams to pass this course. More than **one** unauthorized absence or late arrival will result in a deduction of 5% for each occasion. Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class and examination schedules. It is the policy of UT-Austin that you must notify each of your instructors of such absences at least fourteen days prior to the class' scheduled date. Suitable arrangements will be made.

Policy on special accommodations. At the beginning of the semester, students who need special accommodations should notify the instructor by presenting a letter prepared by the Services for Students with Disabilities (SDD) Office. To ensure that the most appropriate accommodations can be provided, students should contact the SSD Office at 471-6259 or 471-4641 TTY.

Read more at: <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

Medical notes need to state that the patient was physically unable to attend.

Academic integrity is the heart of this great university. It is part of the honor code.

<http://www.utexas.edu/about-ut/mission-core-purpose-honor-code>

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are therefore subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University.

Plagiarism:

Passing off the work of others as your own is a serious offense. You *must* properly attribute quotations and information taken from other sources, whether written or digital. *In general*, do *not* take information from the web unless you are going via a University Library database (such as J-STOR). You can take an online lesson at:

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/>

If still in doubt, visit my office, email or contact me via Blackboard.

Blackboard and laptop/messaging device policy. The course web site on Blackboard will be used to post assignments 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.

See university policy at: <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify/html>

All students have the right to learn in a supportive environment: The use of a laptop/tablet should not distract others and is acceptable during lectures or class discussions only for note-taking or instructor-directed web-surfing. All mobile messaging devices must be turned off and stored away during class. No devices will be permitted during exams.

Safety: I hope the need will never arise, but please do visit

<http://www.utexas.edu/safety/preparedness/communication> and acquaint yourself with safety rules and procedures.

My obligations to you

I will do my best to help you understand a history that has fascinated me for more than thirty years. Do not hesitate to bring your questions or disagreements up with me. I like to know my students and their interests. I will *always* (barring emergencies) be in my office during my office hours. No appointment is needed. You can also come at other times, by appointment.

Grading:

Drafts of two research papers 10% each

Two research papers 20% and 20%

Analysis of one primary source: 15%

Participation 25%.

Key deadlines: 9/23 first short report draft; 9/28 final short report

10/12 First paper draft; 10/18 First paper revised version

Second paper – presentation outline 11/12; revised draft 11/25; Final version 12/5 at noon.

Late submitted assignments will lose 3% per day of delay.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

A	91-100	C	60-64
A-	85-90	C-	55-59
B+	80-84	D+	50-54
B	75-79	D	45-49
B-	70-74	D-	40-44
C+	65-69	F	0-39

Schedule of classes

Numbers refer to pdf documents available on Blackboard.

September

3 Introductory session: requirements and expectations. Background lecture: the geography and history of 19th century India to 1857 – the creation of the “Sepoy” Army - post-imperial reimagining: viewing of clip from *Mangal Pandey*. Read Heather Streets “Rebellion” #1.

10 The many frames of history: a discussion of historiography. Eric Stokes #2; Exercises in close reading: two contemporary historical frames – Kennedy *Great Indian Mutiny* #3; Extract from Trevelyan ‘*Competition-Wallah*’ #4

17 Contemporaries and participants: Chief Commissioner Lawrence, "Letter", #5 - S.A. Khan *Causes* #6– which of the two explanations do you find most convincing? Why? *Start reading Diary of a Lady* this week. (pdf #7)

24 Thinking like a historian: **Assignment 1.** Analysis of a primary source – reconstruct the experiences of Indian servants during the siege of Lucknow from *Diary of a Lady* (#7). Class discussion of 2-3 page responses posted on Blackboard by 9/23. Final 4-5 page versions **due September 28.**

October

1 Understanding the motives of the rebels - the Proclamations of the rebel leaders # **8**; Forbes-Mitchell 'Jamie Green' – #**9**. Start on draft of paper – your analysis of the *Causes of the Revolt*. Post drafts on Blackboard by October 12.

8 Background to movie '*Junoon*' – S.A. Khan "Bijnor Rebellion" #10;– Viewing of *Junoon*

15 Gender and nationalism: comments and responses to *Junoon*; second hour – discussion of draft essays on causes of the revolt. Final essays due **October 18.**

22 The Rani of Jhansi: Introductory lecture: the revolt in Jhansi and Central India. The Rani of Jhansi – Reading #11 Lebra-Chapman 118-165; translation of Godse's narrative. Discussion of the legend; contrast to the narrative in *Junoon*.

29 Comparison of Savarkar 457-94 (#12), Sen, 264-305 (#13). Which is the most convincing understanding of Rani Lakshmibai? *Rani of Jhansi: Heroic Patriot or Involuntary Rebel?* Class discussion.

November

5 Introductory lecture: historical introduction to the Buckler debate. Revolt or restoration? The Buckler debate Reading #14; Reading # see URL. The Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah: wronged monarch, nationalist rebel or helpless pawn?

Choose your final paper topic: either *The Rani of Jhansi* or *the Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah* and begin to prepare your ideas for discussion in the next two sessions.

12 Individual presentation of draft final papers. Conference format: 15 minutes per person.

19 Continued

25 Revised drafts of final papers on Blackboard by this day.

26 Discussion of final papers

Dec 3 Final review. Final drafts of second paper due December 5, noon.