

FYSP 140: "Pakistan: A New Nation's Contested Identities"
Fall 2008 - Mr. Fisher, Rice 314, tel. 58524/58420; michael.fisher@oberlin.edu
Class Meets Tuesday-Thursday 11:00-12:15
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 9:00-10:50
and by appointment at a time of mutual convenience

Overview

Pakistan, the world's largest nuclear-armed Islamic country, emerged in 1947 from the struggle against British imperialism, intended as a pure homeland where the Muslims of India could live in a single community regardless of their regional, linguistic, or class origins. Subsequently, Pakistan's strategic geo-political location, contested physical and socio-cultural environments, and internal insurrections against a series of military dictators have led to a turbulent history including three and a half wars with India (1947, 1965, 1971, 1999) and a civil war that split Pakistan (1971). This seminar will explore how Pakistani women and men have conceived of their country from its origins to the present, using textual, visual, and aural sources created by and/or about Pakistanis.

Simultaneously, we will learn how to deploy the analytical power of several liberal arts disciplines including: history, literary analysis, political science, the history of religion, and gender and environmental studies. We will also work with the library reference staff to enhance our information literacy. Each member of the seminar will participate in group discussions based on shared readings, make individualized presentations, as well as design, research, and write several cumulative papers and a longer paper on a topic particularly suited to her or his own interests.

Learning Objectives:

- a. an introduction to the liberal arts, including: skills necessary for critical thinking, civil and persuasive discussion, and comprehensive research; information literacy in several disciplines; control over multiple disciplinary methodologies; fluency in effective scholarly writing; and engagement with powerful issues of social relevance in a global context.
- b. an introductory understanding of the historical processes that produced the current nation of Pakistan in his regional context of South Asia.

Required texts to be purchased:

Rushdie, Salman, *Shame* (Picador, 1983).

Ring, Laura, *Zenana: Everyday Peace in a Karachi Building* (Indiana University Press, 2006).

The Instructor will also make available (through **Blackboard**) various primary and secondary sources that are required reading. These total about 300 pages, so budget your print quota. Some are in Word (.doc) format, others in Acrobat (.pdf) format.

Course writing requirements:

1) Write three position papers (250-500 words each). They will be discussed, with an opportunity to rewrite from the draft for a formal grade. There is a penalty of 3 points off every two hours it is late. and

2) Write one 3000-4000 word research paper, with penultimate draft version submitted, on topic to be decided through individual consultation with the instructor. Each student will present her/his paper in class, as well as serve as discussant one other student's paper.

Assessment:

Position Papers averaged: 30%; Research Paper: 45%; Class discussion (including individual reports) 25%.

The grading is as follows: A+ 100-97; A 96-93; A- 92-90; B+ 89-87; B 86-83; B- 82-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-73; C- 72-70; D 65-69, F below 65.

Honor Code: The Honor Code applies to all assignments in this course. This means that any student found cheating, plagiarizing, turning in another person's work as his/her own or otherwise violating the instructor's explicit or implicit instructions will be subject to a hearing before the Student Honor Committee. To learn more about the Code, see the Rules and Regulations Section VI A and B in Fusers or the Student Handbook. (language courtesy of Susan Colley and the Student Honor Code Committee).

All requests for accommodation due to special needs will be entertained by the instructor if submitted in advance with endorsement from Ms. Boomer.

Class meetings

9/2 Overview of the seminar, a Liberal Arts education, and the study of Pakistan.

9/4 Islam, South Asia, and British Colonial Rule and Scholarly Sources

Required: read from Blackboard, Islam and Muslims in South Asia (Islam.doc, 7pp).

Required: research one crucial scholarly source on Islam or Muslims in South Asia; be prepared to explain how you found that source, what are its strengths, and what are its limitations.

9/9 Women and the Idealized Muslim State

Required: Hossain, "Sultana's Dream" (SultanasDream.doc, 8pp) and Willmer, "Women as Participants in the Pakistan Movement" (WillmerMAS.pdf, 18pp).

Required: research the life of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain; be prepared to explain how you went about your research and why you chose that methodology including the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology you chose.

9/10 (Wednesday) @ 4:30-5:30 in Mudd 113: Special session on Information Literacy with Mr. Haipeng Li.

9/11 Muslim Politics in Undivided India, Nation-States, and Information Literacy.

Required: read from Blackboard, Jinnah (Jinnah.doc, 7pp).

Required: research the life of Jinnah and explain your methodology.

9/15 (by Monday noon) first 250-500 word position paper due: read and analyze any one or two of: Manto, "Toba Tek Singh" (Manto Toba Tek Singh.doc, 6pp); Manto, "The

Return (Khol Do, literally "open up")" (MantoReturn.pdf, 2pp); Gilmartin, "A Magnificent Gift" (GilmartinCSSH.pdf, 22pp); Liaquat Ali Khan (Liaquat Ali Khan.doc, 4pp); Maududi (Maududi.doc, 6pp).

For this position paper, you should select a topic, set out your thesis, use precise and relevant evidence to demonstrate your thesis (using foot/endnotes for direct quotations), and have a brief conclusion.

9/16 Partition discussion and enhancing your reading and expository expertise.

Required: read all of: Manto, Gilmartin, Liaquat Ali Khan, and Maududi (as above)

For this class, read the one of your colleagues' position papers that I have sent you and come to class prepared to discuss it in depth.

9/18 Pakistan among Muslims: sectarianism and regionalism and the political context to 1971.

Required read any two (or all three of): Oldenburg, "A Place Insufficiently Imagined" (Oldenburg.pdf, 23pp); Beachler, 'Politics of Genocide Scholarship: The Case of Bangladesh' (Beachler.pdf, 26 pp); Zaman, "Sectarianism in Pakistan" (Zaman_Muhammad_Qasim.pdf, 28pp).

9/21 (Sunday, 6:00 PM) Seminar dinner at Mr. Fisher's home (241 Oak St.--from Rice/King go west one block on College St. to Cedar St., then south two blocks to Oak St.).

9/22 (by Monday noon) rewritten first position paper due.

9/23 Life in Q

Required read Rushdie's *Shame*, pp. 3-55.

9/25 Bhutto and the Pakistan People's Party

Required read Rushdie's *Shame*, pp. 59-189.

9/29 (by Monday noon) second 250-500 word position paper due using as the central topic one aspect of Rushdie's *Shame* (you should have completed your reading the entire book). As examples of a topic, you might compare literary and historical methodologies or you might analyze Rushdie's use of gender or you might focus on any single person/character in the novel.

9/30 Women and Shame

Required finish reading Rushdie's *Shame*, pp. 193-317.

For this class, read the one of your colleagues' position papers that I have sent you and come to class prepared to discuss it in depth.

10/2 Religious Education in Pakistan

Read any one (or more) of: Haroon, "Rise of Deobandi Islam in the North-West Frontier Province and its Implications in Colonial India and Pakistan, 1914-96"

(HAROON_SANA.pdf, 24pp); Rahman and Bukhari, "Pakistan: Religious Education and

Institutions" (Rahman_Khalid.pdf, 17pp); Bano, "Beyond Politics: The Reality of a Deobandi Madrasa in Pakistan" (Bano_Masooda.pdf, 26pp); Zia, "Religion and Education in Pakistan: An Overview" (Zia_Rukhsana.pdf, 14pp).

10/6 (by Monday noon) rewritten second position paper due.

10/6-13 work with instructor on choosing the topic for your 3,000-4,000 word research paper)

10/7 Law, Islam, and Gender

Read both: Jafar, "Women, Islam, and the State in Pakistan" (Jafar_Afshan.pdf, 21pp) and Usmani, "Islamization of Laws in Pakistan: The Case of *Hudood Ordinances*" (Usmani_Muhammad_Taqi.pdf, 18pp).

10/9 No class: Yom Kippur

10/14 Class: Urban and Rural

Required: Candland, "Workers' Organizations in Pakistan: Why No Role in Formal Politics" (CandlandLabor.pdf, 23pp) and Niazi, "Rural Poverty and the Green Revolution" (NiaziGreenRev.pdf, 19pp).

Required: statement of your term research paper topic and basic sources.

10/16 No class (already made up)

Fall Break

10/28 Karachi and Discussion of Paper writing

Required: Gayer, "Guns, Slums, and 'Yellow Devils': A Genealogy of Urban Conflicts in Karachi" (GAYER_LAURENT.pdf, 30pp).

10/30 Urban Pakistan (Prof. M. Ronkin will present)

10/31 (by Friday noon) Submit to instructor preliminary bibliography and paper outline or prospectus.

11/3 (by Monday noon) third 250-500 word position paper due on a crucial aspect of Ring, *Zenana*, Introduction and Chapter 2.

11/4 Living in Karachi

Required: Ring, *Zenana*, Introduction and Chapter 2.

11/6 Karachi and Discussion of Paper progress

Required: Ring, *Zenana*, Chapters 3 and 4.

11/10 (by Monday noon) rewritten third position paper due.

11/11 Anthropology in Pakistan and pre-registration issues
Required: Finish Ring, *Zenana*, Chapter 5 and Conclusion.

11/13 Rural Pakistan (as seen by one scholar)

Required, read any one of the following: Marsden, "Women, Politics and Islamism in Northern Pakistan" (MarsdenWomen.pdf, 25pp); Marsden, "Islam, Political Authority, and Emotion in Northern Pakistan" (MarsdenIslam.pdf, 40pp); Marsden, "Muslim Cosmopolitans? Transnational Life in Northern Pakistan" (MarsdenMuslimCosmopolitans.pdf, 35pp); Marsden, "Mullahs, Migrants and Murids: New Developments in the Study of Pakistan: A Review Article" (MarsdenMullahs.pdf, 25pp).

11/18 Pakistan and India: Kashmir and Nukes

Required both Abbass, "A Return to Democracy" (AbbassOnDemocracy.pdf, 28pp) and Sheikh, "Pakistan's Nuclear Bomb: Beyond the Non-Proliferation Regime" (Sheikh_Farzana.pdf, 20pp).

11/20 Discussion of Paper progress and Winter term (deadline Dec. 5)

11/25 Current Contexts

Required: read any one account of the origins or end of the rule of General Musharraf
Full penultimate version of research paper due at the start of class

11/27 No class (Thanksgiving)

12/2 Presentation and discussion of papers (part I).

12/4 Presentation and discussion of papers (part II).

12/9 Presentation and discussion of papers (part III).

12/11 Presentation and discussion of papers (part IV).

12/17 (Wednesday) at 9:00AM **research paper due** (as officially scheduled in exam period).