

**PRS 302—Whose Voice? Whose Tongue?
The Indian Renaissance and its Aftermath**

Fall 2011

W 7:00-9:30 PM Dewey 104

Nalini Bhushan, ext 3421, Dewey 4 OH T, Th 1-3 or by appt, nbhushan@smith.edu

Jay Garfield, ext 3649, Dewey Front Parlor, OH M 1:30-3:00 p.m., W 1:00-2:30 p.m. or by appt, jgarfield@smith.edu

The Indian renaissance in the mid-nineteenth century represented a resurgence of interest in and development of classical Indian culture and learning. It also involved an explosion of new art, political and social movement and philosophy arising from the confluence of indigenous Indian ideas and imports brought by British colonialists and foreign-returned Indians who traveled in the context of the colonial situation. The ferment generated by the renaissance fueled the Indian independence movement and is the context against which contemporary Indian society is constituted. We will examine India's vast contributions to contemporary world culture against the backdrop of this fascinating period, reading the philosophy, art, theatre, poetry, politics and religious texts this period produced.

Students are expected to attend all seminar meetings, and to attend several film viewings (good films with authentic food!); to complete all assigned reading prior to class meetings; to participate in class discussions; to contribute to online discussions on Moodle about the material assigned in class (a first contribution is required each week no later than Monday 12:00, but conversation can certainly begin earlier, and can certainly go right up to 6:59 PM Wednesday); to write one midterm paper and one final paper (approx 8-10 pp each); and to give one oral seminar presentation in some Indian language.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

Midterm paper:	35%
Final paper:	35%
Seminar report:	10%
Class participation:	10%
Moodle comments:	10%

Required texts: (All are available at Grécourt Bookstore, Smith College)

MR Anand, *Untouchable*

Bhushan, N and Garfield, J. Eds. *Indian Philosophy in English: From Renaissance to Independence*

Chaudhuri, Amit, *Clearing a Space: Reflections on India, Literature and Culture*

EM Forster, *A Passage to India*

M Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj*

A Mehrotra, *An Illustrated History of Indian Literature in English*

J Nehru, *The Discovery of India*
R Tagore, *Gitanjali*

Course Reader available at Paradise Copies (Conz Street, Northampton)

Schedule of topics and readings: (Readings marked * are supplementary.)

14 September

Indian Philosophy After Independence—Curators and Eliders (In this opening section we will examine the ways in which colonial Indian history has been elided as well as the ways that it has been represented in the postcolonial period.)

Reading: The MacCauley Minute on Indian Education (handout and on moodle site)
Mulik Raj Anand, *Untouchable* (**summer reading**)
EM Forster, *A Passage to India* (**summer reading**)

September 16 (Friday), **Film Screening:** *A Passage to India*, 7:30 PM, Dewey Common Room

21 September

Myths and Motivations: The Recovery of a Lost Sensibility (In this section we will examine the ways in which colonial Indian leaders, artists and intellectuals imagined an Indian tradition and what it would take to preserve and to advance it in the context of colonization and the encounter with modernity.)

Reading: James Mill, “General Reflections,” Ch X of *The History of British India v II* (1858) [Course Reader, hereafter CR]
AK Coomaraswamy, “Indian Nationality,” (1909) [Bhushan/Garfield anthology (hereafter B/G)]
AK Coomaraswamy, “Mata Bharata,” (1909) [CR]
Aurobindo Ghosh, “The Renaissance in India” (1918) [B/G]
Jawaharlal Nehru, *The Discovery of India*, pp 40-63, 295-401 (1944)

28 September

Arya Samaj and Brahma Samaj: Back to the Future (Here we study the important religious/cultural/social movements that provided the context for so much of this work and for the construction of a new Indian self-understanding.)

Reading:
Autobiography of Dayanada Saraswati (KC Yadav, ed), (1883) [CR]
D Vable, *The Arya Samaj: Hindu without Hinduism* (1983) [CR]
S Sastri, *History of the Brahma Samaj* (1911) [CR]
KC Sen, “The Cuch Behar Marriage Controversy,” *A Search for Cultural Synthesis* (1878) [CR]
D Kopf, *The Brahma Samaj and the Shaping of the Modern Indian Mind*, cs 10-11 (1979) [CR]
N Bhushan and J Garfield, “Pandits and Professors: The Renaissance of Secular India” [B/G]

5 October

The Indian In Literature: A Cultural Awakening (A focus on Bengal, and on Ram Mohan Roy and Rabindranath Tagore in particular, in order to illustrate how the Brahmo Samaj facilitated cultural development)

Reading:

MC Kotnala, "The Foundation of the Brahmo Samaj," *Raja Ram Mohun Roy and the Indian Awakening c 6* (1975) [CR]

Bruce Carlisle Robertson, "The English Writings of Raja Ram Mohan Roy" from AK Mehrotra, ed., *An Illustrated History of Indian Literature in English*

Tagore, *Gitanjali*, with introduction by W B Yeats

Two Tagore short stories [CR]

Amit Chaudhri, "The English Writings of Rabindranath Tagore" from AK Mehrotra, ed., *An Illustrated History of Indian Literature in English*

AK Coomaraswamy, "Poems of Rabindranath Tagore, from *Art and Swadeshi* [CR]

12 October

Authenticity, Creativity and the Genius: A Cultural Trope in Colonial India (In this section we examine the field of visual art and art criticism, exploring the tension between an account of what it is to be genuinely Indian and what it is to be a creative artist, and examine how the identification of isolated geniuses emerges from and helps to resolve this dichotomy.)

Reading:

AK Coomaraswamy, "The Function of Schools of Art in India: A reply to Mr Cecil Burns," from *Art and Swadeshi* [CR]

AK Coomaraswamy, "The Modern School of Indian Painting," from *Art and Swadeshi* [CR]

AK Coomaraswamy, "The Aims and Methods of Indian Art," from *Essays in National Idealism*[CR]

AK Coomaraswamy "Art and Swadeshi" (1910) [B/G]

BK Sarkar, "Viewpoints in Aesthetics" (1922) [B/G]

Aurobindo Ghosh, "The National Significance of Art" [CR]

N Bhushan and J Garfield, "An Indian in Paris: Cosmopolitan Aesthetics in Colonial India" [B/G]

19 October (Arvind Mehrotra is with us)

Debates about Indian Writing: Literary and Philosophical I (Here we return to the Macaulay Minute on Education as a context setter and examine the role of the English language in the development of Indian Literature and Poetry)

Reading:

A Mehrotra, Introduction to *An Illustrated History of Indian Literature in English*
Rajiv Patke, "Poetry Since Independence, *An Illustrated History of Indian Literature in English*

[Add more for Arvind's visit. Eg. Selections from Section 2 of Chaudhuri book, which has some good essays -- on poet Kolatkar, on Kipling: we could include a Kipling story as well ...]

(Rough Draft of Midterm Paper due on Moodle by midnight on Thursday, October 20)

26 October

Rasa: Aesthetic Experience in Indian Philosophy (An examination of major trends in Indian philosophical aesthetics)

Reading:

Mulk Raj Anand, *The Hindu View of Art*, Part II: The Aesthetic Hypothesis [CR]
KC Bhattacharyya "The Concept of Rasa" [B/G]
M Hiriyanna, "Art Experience 2" (1951) [B/G]
M Hiriyanna, "Indian Aesthetics 2" (1954) [B/G]

2 November (Amit Chaudhuri is with us)

Debates about Indian Writing: Literary and Philosophical II (returning to and continuing the conversation that began with our first visitor Arvind Mehrotra)

Reading:

Amit Chaudhuri, *Clearing a Space* (Part One)

3 November (Thursday) Public Talk by Amit Chaudhuri, location TBA (**attendance expected**)

9 November

How to Think about Indian Philosophy under British Rule I (Here we turn specifically to philosophy, its role in Indian culture, and the tension between philosophy prosecuted in English and the Sanskrit tradition in colonial India, as well as the ways in which English mediated Indian philosophical research.)

Reading:

R Tagore, "Pathway to *Mukti*," IPC Presidential Address, 1925 [B/G]
M Hiriyanna, "Subjective Self-lessness," IPC Presidential Address, 1939 [CR]
AC Mukerji, "Traditional Epistemology," IPC Presidential Address, 1950 [B/G]
AC Mukerji, "The Realist Conception of Idealism," 1927 [B/G]
N Bhushan and J Garfield, "The Plato of Allahabad: A.C. Mukerji's Contributions to Indian and to World Philosophy" [B/G]

11 November (Friday) **Film Screening (*Gandhi*)**, Dewey Common Room, 7:30 PM

16 November

How to Think about Indian Philosophy under British Rule II

Reading:

RD Ranade, "The Problem of Ultimate Reality in the Upanisads," (1926) [B/G]
Ras Bihari Das, "The Falsity of the World" (1940) [B/G]
KC Bhattacharyya, *The Subject as Freedom*, c I, "The Notion of Subjectivity" [CR]
N Bhushan and J Garfield, "Bringing Brahman Down to Earth: Lilavada in Colonial India" [B/G]

November 30

Sri Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo and Mahatma Gandhi: Leaders Return from the West
(Many of the principal religious and political leaders in India during the colonial period and in the Independence struggle were foreign returned. We will explore the ways in which they imported foreign ideas, drew on Indian ideology and integrated these ideas into a new Indian cultural paradigm.)

Reading:

S Vivekananda, Address to Parliament of World Religions [Moodle and CR]
S Vivekananda, *Jñāna Yoga* (1915) [B/G]
MK Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj*, cs I-XIII
*Peter Heehs, "Sri Aurobindo," from AK Mehrotra, ed., *An Illustrated History of Indian Literature in English*
*Sunil Khilnani, "Gandhi and Nehru: The Uses of English" from AK Mehrotra, ed., *An Illustrated History of Indian Literature in English*

2 December (Friday) **Film Screening *Home and the World***, Dewey Common Room 7:30 PM

7 December

Philosophy and Politics In the Context of Indian Nationalism (The independence movement provided an important context for so much of Indian cultural production and for the development of a sense of Indian identity during this period. Here we re-examine some of the work we have been considering in the context of Indian politics and political rhetoric.)

Reading: MK Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj*, cs XIV-XX

R Tagore, "Nationalism in India" (1918) [B/G]

Bhagavan Das, "The Meaning of Swaraj or Self-Government" (1921) [B/G]

Lajpat Rai, "Reform or Revival?" (1904) [B/G]

*J Nehru, *The Discovery of India*, pp 401-458, 486-555

Rough Draft of Second Paper Due on Moodle on Thursday, December 9, by midnight.

14 December

The Contest for Authenticity: What makes an Idea Indian? Why Does This Question Even Matter? (In this concluding section we re-examine the vision of Indian authenticity and the relation of Indian identity to classical Indian culture and to the contemporary world that emerges from the colonial period, and how these ideas inflect contemporary Indian culture and representations of that culture.)

Reading:

A Coomaraswamy, "The Deeper Meaning of the Struggle" [CR]

KC Bhattacharyya, "Svaraj in Ideas" (1928) [B/G]

Our paper on Gandhi and Tagore?