South Asian Masculinities (REL 277)

Spring 2009
MW 1:10–2:30

PROFESSOR: Andy Rotman
OFFICE: Pierce Hall 203
OFFICE HOURS: MW 2:40–4:00 or by appointment
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REQUIREMENTS

1. You are expected to attend class regularly, finish the assigned readings on time, and participate in class discussions actively (and, one hopes, enthusiastically).

2. To facilitate class discussion, you will be expected to make regular postings on Moodle, responding to the readings directly as well as to the postings of other students. I expect you to post 250+ words each week. Your postings should demonstrate a thoughtful and rigorous engagement with the material. Creativity is encouraged, rambling is not. Although you are welcome to focus on a particular article or passage within a week’s assignment, you should try to contextualize that material within the rest of the week’s readings. Postings for each week should be submitted by Saturday at midnight of that week. In short, postings made during a particular week should be posted in the folder for that week. At the end of the semester, you will be expected to print out all of your posts and submit them to me. Please clip them together with your final paper and put them in the box outside my office by May 1st.

3. Class participation will constitute a significant portion of your grade. Hence, read the material, post your reactions and insights, and come to class prepared to engage in a high level discussion of the material. Keep in mind Wittgenstein’s aphorism, “Even to have expressed a false thought boldly and clearly is already to have gained a great deal.” To this end, students will be asked to introduce the readings for each class.

4. A 5–6 page research paper will be due at the end of the semester. Research topics must first be submitted to me for approval. A brief description of your “approved” project (100 words) along with an annotated bibliography must be posted on Moodle by April 20th. Some of you may have overlapping projects, and it would be good for you to work collaboratively. During the last week of the semester, you will be expected to present your research as a work in progress. Papers are due in the box outside my office by May 1st.

In summary, your grade will be determined by the quality of your participation in class, your postings on Moodle, and your research paper.
REQUIRED READING


texts are available at Grécourt Bookshop in the Campus Center
the source book is available at Paradise Copies, 21 Conz Street, 585–0414
WEEK 1 (1/26, 1/28)
i. INTRODUCTION

ii. LOCATING MASCULINITY
“The Demon Rod,” 1–54
“The Lifestyle of the Man-about-town,” 17–21

WEEK 2 (2/2, 2/4)
i. MANLY GODS, GODLY MEN: SHIVA
Excerpts, 137–174
“Shiva and Narcissus,” 154–160

ii. MANLY GODS, GODLY MEN: KRISHNA
Excerpts, 204–231
“Cult and Myths of Krishna,” 140–153

WEEK 3 (2/9, 2/11)
i. MANLY GODS, GODLY MEN: RAMA
entire book
Excerpts, 197–204
“Yes to Sita, No to Ram!: The Continuing Popularity of Sita in India,” 20–31

ii. MANLY GODS, GODLY MEN? BUDDHA
“The Story of Rupāvatī,” 1–15
“Materializations of Virtue: Buddhist Discourses on Bodies,” 15–47
WEEK 4 (2/16, 2/18)
i. OEDIPUS, CASTRATION, PARANOIA
  “The Indian Oedipus,” 377–397

ii. NO CLASS (RALLY DAY)

WEEK 5 (2/23, 2/25)
i. THE INTIMATE ENEMY
  The Intimate Enemy (1983):
  Preface, iv–xvi
  “The Psychology of Colonialism: Sex, Age and Ideology in British India,” 1–64

ii. THE EFFEMINATE AND EMASCULATED

WEEK 6 (3/2, 3/4)
i. HIJRAS: THOUGHTS ON A THIRD GENDER
  1. The Ethnographic Setting, 1–16
  2. Hijras, Individuality, and Izzat, 17–43
  3. Cartographies of Sex/Gender, 44–77

ii. HIJRAS: IDENTITY AND PRACTICE
  4. Sacred Legitimization, Corporeal Practice: Hindu Iconography and Hijra Renunciation, 78–98
  5. “We are All Musalmans Now”: Religious Practice, Positionality, and Hijra/Muslim Identification, 99–120
  6. (Per)Formative Selves: The Production of Gender, 121–141
WEEK 7 (3/9, 3/11)
i. HIJRAS: LIFE IN BOMBAY
  8. Shifting Contexts, Fluid Identities, 186–210
  9. Crossing “Lines” of Subjectivity: Transnational Movements and Gay Identifications, 211–222
  10. Conclusion, 223–232

ii. ENCOUNTERING MASCULINITIES, NORTH AND SOUTH

OPTIONAL
  1. Introduction: Masculinities in South Asia, 1–28

WEEK 8 (3/16, 3/18)
RELAX . . . SPRING BREAK

WEEK 9 (3/23, 3/25)
i. COPS AND ROBBERS IN MUMBAI
  Number Two After Scotland Yard, 131
    Ajay Lal: The Blasts and the Gangwar, 131–167
    Encounter, 168–184
  Black Collar Workers, 185–190
    Mohsin: The D-Company, 190–206
    Satish: The Dal Badlu, 206–234
    Chotta Shakeel: The Don in Exile, 234–249

  Monday and Tuesday, 7 pm (location to be announced)
ii. Why is the angry young man so angry?

WEEK 10 (3/30, 4/1)
i. Somatic Nationalism 1

ii. Somatic Nationalism 2

WEEK 11 (4/6, 4/8)
i. Masculinity and Morality
  Chapter 4: Moral Muscle: Masculinity and its Religious Uses, 83–105

ii. Masculinity and Morality
screening: Majma [Performance]. Directed by Rahul Roy. (54 minutes).

WEEK 12 (4/13, 4/15)
i. Hunting an Identity 1
  Preface, xi–xvii
  Part I. Bal Kand / The Book of Childhood, 3–33
  Part II. Aranya Kand / The Forest Book, 37–86
ii. **HUNTING AN IDENTITY 2**
   
   Part III. *Shram Kand / The Book of Labor*, 89–139
   Part IV. *Uttarkhand / Himalaya*, 143–175

**WEEK 13 (4/20, 4/22)**

i. **NO CLASS**


   Monday and Tuesday, 7 pm (location to be announced)

ii. **A HINDU, A CHRISTIAN, AND A MUSLIM WALK INTO A BAR...**


   “Melodrama and the Negotiation of Morality in Mainstream Hindi Film,” 157-182


      Chapter 6: Segmenting/Analyzing Two Foundational Texts, 171–178, 189–201

   • additional readings to be distributed

**WEEK 14 (4/27, 4/29)**

i. **PRESENTATIONS**

   • **PRESENTATIONS**