South Asian Masculinities (REL 277)

Spring 2012
MW 1:10–2:30

PROFESSOR: Andy Rotman
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OFFICE HOURS: MW 4:00–5:00 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. These are due on the last day of classes.

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 10-page research paper will be due at the end of the semester (May 8th). Research topics must be submitted to me for approval, and then they should be posted. Many of you will 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.

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, 30 Crafts Avenue, 585–0414
WEEK 1 (1/30, 2/1)
i. INTRODUCTION

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

WEEK 2 (2/6, 2/8)
i. MANLY GODS, GODLY MEN: ŚIVA
  Excerpts, 137–174
  “Shiva and Narcissus,” 154–160

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

WEEK 3 (2/13, 2/15)
i. MANLY GODS, GODLY MEN: RĀM
  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 (2/20, 2/22)**

i. **POETIC CONSTRUCTIONS OF MANHOOD IN VEDIC INDIA**

  
  - Introduction, 3–33
  - 2. Brave Men and Manliness, 35–57

ii. **OEDIPUS, CASTRATION, PARANOIA**

  
  - “The Indian Oedipus,” 377–397


**WEEK 5 (2/27, 2/29)**

i. **THE INTIMATE ENEMY**

  
  
  - Preface, iv–xvi
  
  - “The Psychology of Colonialism: Sex, Age and Ideology in British India,” 1–64

ii. **ELITE MANLINESS IN MOGHUL INDIA**


**WEEK 6 (3/5, 3/7)**

i. **THE EFFEMINATE AND EMASCULATED**

  
  
  - Conclusion, 181–185

ii. **MASCULINITY ON THE MARGINS**

  
  - Selections, 1–56
WEEK 7 (3/12, 3/14)
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 8 (3/19, 3/21)
RELAX . . . SPRING BREAK

WEEK 9 (3/26, 3/28)
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 (4/2, 4/4)
i. SOMATIC NATIONALISM 1
  “Nervous Masculinity: Consumption and the Production of Embodied Gender in Indian Wrestling,” 132–145

ii. SOMATIC NATIONALISM 2
  Preface: History, Body, Culture, ix–xviii
  1. Gandhi’s Body, Gandhi’s Truth, 3–27
  2. The Ethereal Politics of the Mahatma’s Fasts, 28–52

WEEK 11 (4/9, 4/11)
i. MASCULINITY AND MORALITY
  Chapter 4: Moral Muscle: Masculinity and its Religious Uses, 83–105

ii. ENCOUNTERING MASCULINITIES, NORTH AND SOUTH
  “Encountering Masculinity: An Ethnographer’s Dilemma,” 36–59
WEEK 12 (4/16, 4/18)
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 (4/23, 4/25)
i. NO CLASS
  - Monday and Tuesday, 7 pm (location to be announced)

ii. MUSCULAR HINDUISM, GANDHIAN ISLAM, AND TRANSNATIONAL CHRISTIANITY
  - “Melodrama and the Negotiation of Morality in Mainstream Hindi Film,” 157–182
  - “Chapter 6: Segmenting/Analyzing Two Foundational Texts,” 171–178, 189–201

WEEK 14 (4/30, 5/2)
i. PRESENTATIONS

ii. PRESENTATIONS