

HIS 348
Colonial South Asia

Satisfies: CER, SBS+

Thematic Categories:
Empires, Violence & Global Connections; Law, Politics & Social Justice

T/Th, 9:30 to 10:50 am

Instructor: [Debjani Chakrabarty](#)

This is an upper-level survey course on colonial South Asia, examining the transformative and contentious period of the long nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It explores the economic, political and social landscape of colonial South Asia, tracing changes over time in institutions as well as (subaltern) lives. Thematic focus includes labor, law, gender, caste and global histories.

Students can expect to gain an understanding of colonial South Asia, the state of the field of South Asian history, as well as processes and concepts such as colonialization, decolonization, modernity. Attention will also be paid to learning skills such as critical analysis, primary source analysis and citation practices. As such, apart from reading secondary historical scholarship, students will also analyse primary sources, such as letters, memoirs, and colonial records, to gain insights into historical actors' perspectives and agencies. Primary sources will also include paintings, excerpts from important fictional pieces and film clips. By the end of the course, students will have a nuanced understanding of how 19th and early 20th century actors navigated the tensions between tradition and modernity, colonialism and nationalism, and oppression and empowerment.