

Spring 2018

HIST 585-2: Special Topics in History:

(cross-listed with ANT 585-7/WGS 585-1)

Topic: Subaltern Studies (OPUS title)

Subaltern Studies/Postcolonial Studies: Past and Present (Complete course title)

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Pandey	TH	1:00 – 4:00 pm	12

Semester Description:

How have ideas like ‘history from below,’ ‘the personal is political,’ ‘unarchived histories’ and the ‘third space’ helped shape contemporary debates on history and society? What have subaltern studies, minority histories, anti-colonial struggles and feminist interventions contributed to new kinds of investigation, research and writing in history, humanities and the social sciences? These are the questions we take up in this course, through a close examination of texts from a variety of fields and disciplines.

Beginning with the South Asian subaltern studies initiative, we will study a range of texts and debates in postcolonial studies, race and ethnic studies, borderland studies, and feminist and queer studies. What were the political and historiographical contexts out of which these diverse writings emerged, and what are the debates they have in turn generated? What accounts for the subalternist move from a critique of nationalism and the state, to a critique of history? How have scholars of South and North America, Africa and other parts of the world responded to the idea of postcolonial studies, and to the question of the portability of (‘Southern’) theories and methods across cultures and continents? How have feminist and queer notions of ‘undecidability’ affected the course of writings in the post-colonies and elsewhere?

The works listed below are indicative of the kinds of texts we will read. The final list will depend on the composition of the class, and the various disciplines and research agendas represented in it.

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources (*Tentatively*):

1. R. Guha and G. Spivak, eds, Selected Subaltern Studies
2. P. Chatterjee, The Nation and its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories
3. D. Chakrabarty, Provincializing Europe
4. G. Spivak, Critique of Postcolonial Reason
5. Anjali Arondekar, For the Record
6. Ileana Rodriguez and Maria Milagros Lopez, Latin American Subaltern Studies Reader

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7. Valentine Daniel, Charred Lullabies
8. Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*
9. Michel Rolph-Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*
10. Rigoberta Menchu, *I, Rigoberta Menchu*
11. Gloria Anzaldua, *Borderlands/La Frontera. The New Mestiza*

Grading:

TBA