

Spring 2019

HIST 585-2: Special Topics in History:

Topic: Voicing the Voiceless:India/US (OPUS title)
Voicing the Voiceless: Writing Histories of the Marginalized in India and the USA
(Complete course title)

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

Semester Description:

This course deals with histories of the marginalized and the subordinated in South Asia and North America: women; gays, lesbians and transsexuals; dispossessed indigenous communities; religious minorities; African-Americans, Dalits, lower classes and migrants. We are concerned with the disfranchised in the broadest sense of the term, groups who were considered incapable of representing themselves or writing their own histories – indeed, often as people without history, and certainly without an archive. We will investigate different modes of disenfranchisement, and different kinds of silences.

The seminar will examine how recent intellectual and political challenges and debates have produced new ideas of history and archive. We will examine new trends in the writing of history following interventions by feminism, the African American and Dalit movements, anti-colonial, postcolonial and ‘minority’ histories. While the instructors’ specialization means the seminar is built around the history and historiography of North America and South Asia, students working on other parts of the world will be encouraged to bring their own questions, perspectives and readings to the table – to enrich the conversation and extend the scope of our discussions.

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:

Weekly readings will include classic texts in North American and South Asian history, and more recent interventions in the debates on the historical discipline and the meaning of the archive. Examples are Eugene Genovese’s *Roll, Jordan, Roll*; Laurel T. Ulrich’s *A Midwife’s Tale. The Life of Martha Ballard*; Ted Rosengarten’s *All God’s Dangers, The Life of Nate Shaw*; on the American side; Ranajit Guha’s *Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency*; Shahid Amin’s *Event, Metaphor, Memory*; Prathama Banerjee’s *The Politics of Time*; Ruby Lal’s *Coming of Age in 19th century India*; plus various Pandey edited anthologies, which include important contributions from leading US and Indian scholars.

Grading:

TBA