Mother India: Reading Gender and Nation in South Asia
WAGS 66/ASLC 51/FAMS 30
Fall 2010
Tuesday/Thursday 10:00-11:20am
Chapin 103

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30E Johnson Chapel
Office hours: Thursday 11:30am-1:30PM

Course Description
Do you often wonder why some countries are referred to as the “motherland” and others as the “fatherland”? What and who decides how we refer to a country? In this course, we will examine seismic changes over time in gendered imaginings of the Indian subcontinent. As women stepped out of the domestic sphere to participate in the nationalist struggle of the late 19th century, the idea of the nation swayed dramatically between the nation as wife and the nation as mother in the Indian popular imagination. Readings will include novels such as Rabindranath Tagore’s Home and the World and Arundhati Roy’s The God of Small Things. We will also study a range of cinematic texts from the classic Mother India to the recent feminist film Silent Waters.

The following books are available at Amherst Books (8 Main St., Amherst) and have also been placed on reserve at the Frost Library:
Bose, Sugata & Jalal, Ayesha. Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy
Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. Anandamath (1882)
Rabindranath Tagore, The Tagore Omnibus (2005)
Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain, Sultana’s Dream (1905)
Bapsi Sidhwa, Cracking India (1991)
Sikata Bannerjee, Make me a Man: Masculinity, Hinduism and the Nation (2005)

These books are marked (P) on the syllabus. Readings marked (E) are on E-Reserve. If you would like to purchase a hardcopy of the PDF e-reserve readings, please fill out the online form: https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/womens_gender_studies/multilithorderform by Wednesday, September 15th. Please note: you will be charged a fee for this service that is separate from the copyright fee for the course.

Film Screenings
Mehboob Khan, Mother India (1957) Thursday, 9/16 @ 4:00pm, Fayerweather 113
Richard Attenborough, Gandhi (1982) Tuesday, 9/21 @ 4:00pm, Fayerweather 113
Sabih Sumar, Silent Waters(2003) Thursday, 10/14 @ 4:00pm, Fayerweather 113
Ashutosh Gowariker, Lagaan (2001) Tuesday, 11/30 @ 4:00pm, Fayerweather 113
Anant Patwardhan, Father, Son and Holy War (1994) Thursday, 12/02 @ 4:00pm, Fayerweather 113
Shoaib Mansoor, Khuda ke Liye (2007) Tuesday, 12/07 @ 4:00pm, Fayerweather 113
Course Protocol

1. You are required to attend every class and film screening.

2. Read the readings before class, not during or after class or right before the papers are due.

3. There will be three papers. The approximate weighting is as follows:
   - Paper 1: (5-7 pages) 20% of base grade
   - Paper 2: (5-7 pages) 25% of base grade
   - Paper 3: (8-10 pages) 35% of base grade
   - Class Attendance: 20%

4. On top of the base grade, your participation in class discussion will result in one of three adjustments, a null grade, a quarter grade increase, or a half a grade increase. You will not be graded down for anything you say (or don’t say) in class. However, if you say nothing or almost nothing you will not receive any grade benefit.

5. Due dates for Papers:
   - Paper 1: Monday October 4
   - Paper 2: Monday November 8
   - Paper 3: Friday December 17

Week 1
Tues. Sept. 7: Introduction

Thurs. Sept 9: GENDER AND NATION
Modern South Asia: Chapters 1-3 (P)
Nira Yuval-Davis, “Theorizing Gender and Nation” from Gender and Nation (1997): 1-25 (E)
Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. Anandamath (1882) (P)

Week 2
Modern South Asia: Chapters 4-8 (P)
Lata Mani, “Contentious Traditions: The Debate on Sati in Colonial India” Cultural Critique 7 (1987) (E)

Thurs. Sept. 16:
Rabindranath Tagore, Chokher Bali from The Tagore Omnibus (2005) (P)

Week 3
Tues. Sept. 21: NATION AS MOTHER
Modern South Asia: Chapters 9-12 (P)
Mother India (1957) (film)

Thurs. Sept. 23: **FATHER OF THE NATION OR MOTHER?: GANDHI AND THE QUESTION OF GENDER**
Modern South Asia: Chapters 13-15 (P)

**Week 4**
Mon. Sept. 27 FIRST PAPER DUE (5:00 in my box)

Tues. Sept. 28: **HINDU WIFE, HINDU NATION: SWADESHI AND SWARAJ**
Rabindranath Tagore, Home and the World (1916) Part I from The Tagore Omnibus (P)

Thurs. Sept. 30:
Rabindranath Tagore, Home and the World (1916) Part II from The Tagore Omnibus (P)
M.K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj Chapters 4 and 13 (E)

**Week 5**
Tues. Oct. 5: **PURDAH AND THE MUSLIM NATION**
Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain, Sultana’s Dream (1905) (P)
Mahua Sarkar, “Muslim Women and the Politics of Invisibility in Late Colonial India,” Journal of Historical Sociology, 14.2 (June 2001): 226-250 (E)

Thurs. Oct. 7:
Sangeeta Ray, “Woman as Nation and a Nation of Women: Tagore’s Home and the World and Hossain’s Sultana’s Dream” Engendering India (2000) 90-125 (P)

Mid-semester break: Oct. 9-12

**Week 6**
Modern South Asia: Chapters 16-17 (P)
Sadat Hasan Manto, “Open it,” Stories about the Partition of India (ed.) Alok Bhalla (E)
Sadat Hasan Manto, “Cold Meat,” Stories about the Partition of India (ed.) Alok Bhalla (E)
Jamila Hashmi, “Exile,” Stories about the Partition of India (ed.) Alok Bhalla (E)
Rajinder Singh Bedi, “Lajwanti,” Stories about the Partition of India (ed.) Alok Bhalla (E)
Lalithambika Antharjanam, “A Leaf in the Storm,” Stories about the Partition of India (ed.) Alok Bhalla (E)
Week 7
Tues. Oct. 19:
Kavita Daiya, “Honourable Resolutions:’ Gendered Violence, Ethnicity and the Nation,” Alternatives: Global Local Political vol. 27, no. 2 April-June 2002 (E)
Sabiha Sumar, Silent Waters (2003) (film)

Thurs. Oct. 21:
Bapsi Sidhwa, Cracking India (1991): Chapters 1-13 (P)

Week 8
Tues. Oct. 26:
Bapsi Sidhwa, Cracking India (1991): Chapters 14-32 (P)

Modern South Asia: Chapters 18-20 (P)

Week 9
Tues. Nov. 2:

Thurs. Nov. 4:

Week 10
Mon. Nov. 8 SECOND PAPER DUE (5:00 in my box)

Tues. Nov. 9: CASTE, BODY, NATION
Arundhati Roy, The God of Small Things (1997): Chapters 1-10 (P)

Thurs. Nov. 11:
Chatterjee, Partha, "Caste and Subaltern Consciousness," Subaltern Studies 6, p. 169-209 (E)

Week 11
Tues. Nov. 16:

Thurs. Nov. 18:

Saturday, Nov. 20-Sunday, Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Break

Week 12
 Tues. Nov. 30:

Sikata Bannerjee, Make me a Man!: Masculinity, Hinduism and the Nation (2005): Chaps. 1 & 3 (P)
Ashutosh Gowariker, Lagaan (2001) (film)

Week 13
 Tues. Dec. 7:
Sikata Bannerjee, Make me a Man: Masculinity, Hinduism and the Nation (2005): Chaps. 4 & 5 (P)
Anant Patwardhan, Father, Son and Holy War (1994) (film)

Thurs. Dec. 9: MASCULINITY AND THE NATION: PAKISTAN
Shoaib Mansoor, Khuda ke Liye (2007) (film)

Week 14
 Tues. Dec. 14: Conclusion (TBA)

Fri. Dec. 17 THIRD PAPER DUE (5:00 in my box)