The Home and the World: Women and Gender in South Asia
WAGS 207
Fall 2011
Webster 220

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Course Materials
Books for Purchase:
Available from Food for Thought Books, 106 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst 413.253.5432

Rabindranath Tagore, *Home and the World*
Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain, *Sultana’s Dream*
Mahasweta Devi, *Imaginary Maps*
Amitav Ghosh, *River of Smoke*

Books for purchase are marked P on the syllabus. All other required readings for this course can be found on E-Reserve (E) and/or in the Course Reader packet – Multilith.

The Multilith is not a required purchase but is highly recommended. To buy it, you will need to submit a Multilith Order Form for Course Materials found on the WAGS homepage. Estimated cost is $35-50. You will receive an e-mail when it arrives.

Films are marked (F). We will be discussing the following films over the course of the semester:

*Chokher Bali* (dir. Rituparno Ghosh)
*Mother India* (dir. Mehboob Khan)
*Khamosh Pani* (dir. Sabiha Sumar)
*Hazaraon Khwaishein Aisi* (dir. Sudhir Mishra)
*Satta* (dir. Madhur Bhandarkar)
*The Terrorist* (dir. Santosh Sivan) (F)
*Fire* (dir. Deepa Mehta)
*Sarkar* (dir. Ram Gopal Varma)
*Khuda ke Liye* (dir. Sohaib Mansoor)

Films will be streamed on the course website under the e-reserves tab. Please plan to see them before we discuss them.

Course Requirements
1. We expect you to attend class regularly and inform us by email if you miss a class.
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: (4-5 pages) 20% of base grade
   - Paper 2: (4-5 pages) 25% of base grade
   - Paper 3: (6-7 pages) 30% of base grade
   - Speaker Report: (4-5 pages) 10%
   - Class Attendance: 15%

Due dates for Papers:
- Paper 1: Friday Oct. 7th
- Paper 2: Friday Nov. 4th
- Speaker Report: Monday Nov. 28th
- Paper 3: Friday Dec. 16th

WEEK 1
- Wed. Sept. 7th
  - Introduction

WEEK 2:
- Mon. Sept. 12th: **Conceptualizing Gender Inequality**
  - Uma Narayan, *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions & Third World Feminism* (1997), 3-39 & notes (E)

**Colonialism**
- Wed. Sept 14th:

WEEK 3:
- Mon. Sept. 19th:
  - Durba Ghosh, “Decoding the nameless: gender, subjectivity, and historical methodologies in reading the archives of colonial India” in *A new imperial history* (ed.) Kathleen Wilson (E)
  - *Chokher Bali* (dir. Rituparno Ghosh) (F)

- Wed. Sept 21st:
  - Katherine Mayo, *Mother India* Chapter 1 and 2 (E)
WEEK 4:

Nationalism

Mon. Sept. 26th
Sumathi Ramaswamy, *The Goddess and the Nation: Mapping Mother India*, Chp. 6 (E)
*Mother India (F)* (dir. Mehboob Khan)

Wed. Sept. 28th
M.K. Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* Chapters 4, 13 (E)

WEEK 5

Mon. Oct. 3rd
Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain, *Sultana’s Dream* (1905) (P)

Partition

Wed. Oct. 5th
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.) A. Bhalla (E)
Rajinder Singh Bedi, “Lajwanti,” *Stories about the Partition of India* (ed.) A. Bhalla (E)
Lalithambika Antharjanam, “A Leaf in the Storm,” *Stories about the Partition of India* (ed.) A. Bhalla (E)

Friday Oct. 7th: Paper 1 Due

WEEK 6

Mon. Oct. 10th: FALL BREAK

Wed. Oct. 12th
Kavita Daiya, “Honourable Resolutions’: Gendered Violence, Ethnicity and the Nation,” *Alternatives: Global Local Political* vol. 27, no. 2 April-June 2002 (E)
*Khamosh Pani (F)* (dir. Sabiha Sumar)

WEEK 7

Mon. Oct. 17th: Democracy and its critics
Basu, *Women, Political Parties and Social Movements in South Asia* (E)
*Satta (F)* (dir. Madhur Bhandarkar)

*Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi (F)* (dir. Sudhir Mishra)
WEEK 8

Inequality: Caste, Class, Ethnicity, Sexuality

Caste:
Mon. Oct. 24th:

Wed. Oct. 26th:

WEEK 9

Class


Wed. Nov. 2nd: Amitav Ghosh, *River of Smoke* (P) [Class Visit]

Friday Nov. 4th: Paper 2 due

WEEK 10

Class

Mon. Nov. 7th: Amitav Ghosh, *River of Smoke* (P)
Raka Ray, *Cultures of Servitude*, Chapter 2: 32-64, and Chapter 5: 119-144 (E)
Arvind Rajagopal, “Thinking about the New Indian Middle Class” (E)

Wed. Nov. 9th: Ethnicity
Malathi de Alwis, “Motherhood as a Space of Protest” *Appropriating Gender* (E)
*The Terrorist* (F) (dir. Santosh Sivan) (F)

WEEK 11

Mon. Nov. 14th: Sexuality
*Fire* (F) (dir. Deepa Mehta)

Women and the Law
Wed. Nov. 16th
Srimati Basu, “Cutting to Size” Signposts: gender issues in post-independence India (ed.)
Rajeswari Sunder Rajan (E)
Rajeswari Sunder Rajan, The Scandal of the State, Chapter 5 (E)

WEEK 12: THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 13:

Mon. Nov. 28th: Speaker Report Due

Mon. Nov. 28th:

Women’s Leadership
Rajeswari Sundar Rajan, “Gender, Leadership and Representation: The Case of Indira Gandhi” in Real and imagined women: gender, culture, and postcolonialism by Rajeswari Sunder Rajan (E)
Biswa, “The Women Who Rule India” (E)
Mydans, “Family Vaults Women to Leadership in Asia” (E)

Wed. Nov. 30th Hindu Nationalism
Amrita Basu, Violence and Democracy, chapter 4 pp. 101-122 (E)
Menon, Everyday Nationalism chapters 5 and 6 (E)
*Sarkar (F) (dir. Ram Gopal Varma)

WEEK 14

Mon. Dec. 5th: Islamization: Bangladesh
Shehabuddin, Reshaping the Holy, Chapters 1, 3, 6 (E)

Wed. Dec. 7th: Islamization: Pakistan
*Khuda ke Liye (F) (dir. Sohaib Mansoor)

Resistance

WEEK 15

Mon. Dec. 12th: Everyday Resistance
J. Scott, Domination And The Arts Of Resistance, pp 1-16, 183-201 (E)
Veena Oldenburg, "Lifestyle as Resistance" in Contesting Power (ed.) Haynes (E)

Wed. Dec. 14th: Feminism/Women’s Movements
Women’s Movements in a Global Era, Basu ed., Chapters 3, 4 pp. 89-156 (E)

Friday Dec. 16th: Paper 3 Due