Indian Urban: Histories of the South Asian City

ARCH 591.SAC    TH 3:30-6:20, Architecture 102B    SYLLABUS
Instructor: Prof. Susan Johnson-Roehr
E-mail: sjohns50@illinois.edu
Office: Architecture 307
Office Hours: M/W 12:15-1:15 or by appointment
Phone: (217) 333-3782

Introduction
This course examines the development of city spaces on the South Asian subcontinent, from the beginnings of cities to the present, focusing on the development of social, religious and political relations as expressed through urban form. We will engage with recent work in history, geography, urban studies and architecture in an attempt to understand the various ways in which the Indian urban environment is constructed in both material and discursive terms. We will consider the origins and changing nature of Indian cities through time; the relationship between urban life and social/cultural forms; the relationship between the built environment and the formal plan; how prescriptive gender roles are affected/affect the built environment on the micro- and macro-levels of urban social space; concepts of urban citizenship and its effects on urban forms; and concepts of governance, regulation and subjectivity in cities spaces throughout Indian history. Our semester will be divided in two, with the first half devoted to the ancient and early modern cities (the early cities of Delhi, Tughluqabad, Fatehpur Sikri, Shahjahanabad, Jaipur, Calcutta, Bombay), and the second half to cities of the twentieth century (Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, New Delhi, Mumbai).

Requirements:

Attendance/Participation  20%
Class Presentation   20%
Lead Class Discussion  10%
Research Project   50%

Reading Assignments:
You should come to each and every class having read the assigned materials. Most of the books are available for purchase at the Illini Union Bookstore; you are free to buy them elsewhere (www.abebooks.com, www.powells.com, etc.). You are not required to buy any of the books, but you are required to read them. If you choose not to purchase a personal copy, you can find them on course reserve at Ricker Library of Architecture and Art. The majority of the required articles are available via JSTOR or ArchNet. In the few cases when the assigned reading is not available through these sources, I will make the reading available via e-mail or via download from Compass. Plan your reading time wisely, as you will likely be sharing the course reserves with your classmates.

Book List


**Discussion Leaders:**
While every member of the class should be prepared to share insightful comments on the reading assignment, one or two participants in the colloquium will be charged with guiding the discussion for each class session. The assigned students will formulate questions to facilitate group discussion in addition to providing images or additional materials that will be helpful for our analysis of the urban environment. Discussion leaders will be assigned during our first class meeting, and I will provide a handout on leading discussions.

**Attendance:**
Attendance is mandatory. You should sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of each class. If you are more than twenty minutes late to class, I will consider you absent. If you are unable to attend, written confirmation should be given to me promptly. Three absences will automatically lower your grade by one full letter for the course (ie., an A- will become a B-). Every absence after three will result in a lowering of your grade by an additional letter.

**Research Project:**
The research project will be due on **Thursday, December 16, 2011**. There are two research options for this seminar. 1) An 18-20 page research paper (not including bibliography), fully supported with citations and illustrations from published sources; or 2) A shorter paper of approximately 12 pages, supported with an original visual analysis of an urban space through a set of drawings and/or maps. The goal of both projects is to analyze one particular aspect of the material urban environment in respect to significant social and historical concerns. Select a city in India, Pakistan or Bangladesh for which you can find a detailed map and sufficient scholarly resources, and analyze this city in terms of one of the major themes covered in our course (religion, gender, political power, mobility, colonialism, etc.). It is fine to write about a city which we have discussed in class, with the following caveats: 1) you should approach the city from an angle not covered extensively in our discussions; and 2) should you need to re-visit (briefly!) territory covered in class, informal class notes are not a reliable scholarly resource. However, I encourage you to explore new territory: Goa, Simla, Cochin, Chennai, Indore, Lahore, Bhopal, Varanasi, Surat, planned industrial (steel) towns, etc.

**Research Presentation:**
All students will make a short (twenty minutes maximum) presentation at the end of the term. As a useful guide, you should expect to use no more than 10 PowerPoint slides for your talk (averaging 2 minutes per slide). This presentation should provide your classmates with a clear conception of your research question, as well as the steps you took to answer this question. If
necessary, you should prepare handouts to circulate during your presentation. A copy of any materials uses (slides, handouts) should be burned to a CD/DVD and turned in with your research paper on December 16, 2011.

Academic Accommodations:
Students with disabilities that affect their ability to participate fully in class are encouraged to bring this to my attention so appropriate accommodations can be made with Disability Resources and Educational Services (http://www.disability.uiuc.edu/).

Classroom Environment:
University of Illinois will not tolerate inappropriate behavior as defined in the Student Code of Conduct (http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/FullCode_web.pdf).

Academic Honesty:
University of Illinois has a very clear policy on academic honesty. The work completed for this course should be your own. Plagiarism is not an acceptable practice in any class, and all acts of academic misconduct will be handled according to University policy. If you are confused as to what constitutes plagiarism, please review the UIUC Library’s “Avoiding Plagiarism” website (http://www.library.illinois.edu/ugl/howdoi/plagiarism.html). If you are still uncertain, please contact me well before the due date for the research paper.

Schedule:
August 25
Introducion to Course
Physical, Cultural, Historical Geography of India
How do we know what we know? Approaches to reading India’s past.
Ancient Cities of India (Indus Civilization, Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Taxila)

Reading:
- Crane, Robert I., “Urbanism in India,” The American Journal of Sociology 60, no. 5 (March 1955): 463-470 (JSTOR)

September 1
Rajput Indraprastha, 8th-11th c. CE (Tomar and Chauhan); Early Delhi Sultanate, 1192-1316 CE (Mamluk, Khilji)
Qutb Minar; Lal Kot; Hauz Khas; Siri
Reading:

September 8
Late Delhi Sultanate, 1320-1526 CE (Tughluq, Sayyid, Lodi)
Tughluqabad, exodus to Daulatabad, Hauz Khas (Historic Preservation), Lodi Tombs

Reading:
- Mate, M.S., “Daulatabad: Road to Islamic Archaeology in India,” *World Archaeology* Vol. 14, no. 3 (February 1983): 335-341 (JSTOR)

September 15
Mughal Empire, founded 1526 CE
Agra as a Garden City
Fatehpur Sikri and religious syncretism

Reading:
- Please watch the short video on Agra Fort at the UNESCO website: http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/251/video

September 22
Shahjahanabad, 1638-18th century CE
Sovereignty and the cityscape

Reading:
- Stephen P. Blake, *Shahjahanabad The Sovereign City in Mughal India 1639-1739* (1991) [on reserve]
September 29
Jaipur, founded 1728
Urban planning, modernity and empire
Required:
• Sachdev and Tillotson, Building Jaipur [on reserve]

October 6
Calcutta
Colonialism, Race and Modernity
Reading:
• Chattopadhyay, Swati, Representing Calcutta: Modernity, Nationalism, and the Colonial uncanny (Routledge, 2006), 1-177 (skim remainder of book) [on reserve]

October 13
Bombay
Colonialism and Class
Reading:
• Chopra, Preeti, A Joint Enterprise: Indian Elites and the Making of British Bombay (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011) [on reserve]

October 20
No Class—South Asia Conference in Madison, WI

October 27
Research topics (1-2 page description) with preliminary bibliography due, beginning of class
New Delhi in the early 20th century
Designing a Colonial Capital
Reading:
• Volwahsen, Andreas, Imperial Delhi (Munich: Prestel, 2002), 7-31, 195-299 (skim sections on precedents, monuments) [on reserve]

November 3
Chandigarh
Narratives of Partition
Reading:
• Vikramaditya Prakash, *Chandigarh’s Le Corbusier: The Struggle for Modernity in Postcolonial India* [on reserve]
• Nayantra Saghal, *Storm in Chandigarh* [on reserve]

**November 10**
Post-Partition, Delhi and Postcolonial Identity

**Reading:**
• William Darymple, *City of Djinns* [on reserve]
• Ranjana Sengupta, *Delhi Metropolitan* [on reserve]

**November 17**
Mumbai
Growing Pains of a Global City

**Required:**
• Suketu Mehta, *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found* [on reserve]

**November 24**
No class—Thanksgiving holiday

**December 1**
Student Presentations

**Final Research Projects Due December 16, 2011**
Discussant Schedule

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Discussant: (Instructor)

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