

Indian Urban: Histories of the South Asian City

ARCH 591.SAC

TH 3:30-6:20, Architecture 102B

SYLLABUS

Instructor: Prof. Susan Johnson-Roehr

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or by appointment

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

- Blake, Stephen P., *Shahjahanabad: The Sovereign City in Mughal India 1639-1739* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991)
- Chattopadhyay, Swati, *Representing Calcutta: Modernity, Nationalism, and the Colonial Uncanny* (London: Routledge, 2006)
- Chopra, Preeti, *A Joint Enterprise: Indian Elites and the Making of British Bombay* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011)
- Darymple, William, *City of Djinnns* (London: Penguin, 1993)

- Hall, Peter, *Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design in the Twentieth Century*, 3d ed. (2002)
- Kaul, H. K., ed., *Historic Delhi: An Anthology*, 7th printing (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2008)
- Prakash, Vikramaditya, *Chandigarh's Le Corbusier: The Struggle for Modernity in Postcolonial India* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2002)
- Sachdev, Vibhuti and Giles Tillotson, *Building Jaipur: The Making of an Indian City* (London: Reaktion Books, 2002)
- Saghal, Nayantara, *Storm in Chandigarh* (New Delhi, London: Penguin, 1969, 2008)

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

Introduction 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)
- Kundu, Abanti, “Urbanisation in India: A Contrast with Western Experience,” *Social Scientist* 11, no. 4 (April 1983): 37-49 (JSTOR)
- Trautmann, Thomas R. and Carla M. Sinopoli, “In the Beginning Was the Word: Excavating the Relations between History and Archaeology in South Asia,” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 45, No. 4 (2002): 492-523 (JSTOR)
- Possehl, Gregory L., “Revolution in the Urban Revolution: The Emergence of Indus Urbanization,” *Annual Review of Anthropology* 19 (1990): 261-282 (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:

- Flood, Finbarr, “Pillars, Palimpsests, and Princely Practices: Translating the past in Sultanate Delhi,” *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics*, No. 43, Islamic Arts (Spring, 2003): 95-116 (JSTOR)
- Patel, “Toward Alternative Receptions of Ghurid Architecture in North India (Late Twelfth-Early Thirteenth Century CE),” *Archives of Asian Art*, Vol. 54 (2004): 35-61 (JSTOR)

September 8

Late Delhi Sultanate, 1320-1526 CE (Tughluq, Sayyid, Lodi)

Tughluqabad, exodus to Daulatabad, Hauz Khas (Historic Preservation), Lodi Tombs

Reading:

- Welch, Anthony, “A Medieval Center of Learning in India: The Hauz Khas Madrasa in Delhi,” *Muqarnas* Vol. 13 (1996): 165-190 (ArchNet, JSTOR)
- Mate, M.S., “Daulatabad: Road to Islamic Archaeology in India,” *World Archaeology* Vol. 14, no. 3 (February 1983): 335-341 (JSTOR)
- Welch, Anthony and Howard Crane. “The Tughluqs: Master Builders of the Delhi Sultanate.” In *Muqarnas I: An Annual on Islamic Art and Architecture*, 123-166. Oleg Grabar (ed.). (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983) (ArchNet)
- Digby, Simon, “Before Timur Came: Provincialization of the Delhi Sultanate through the Fourteenth Century,” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, Vol. 47, No. 3 (2004): 298-356 (JSTOR)

September 15

Mughal Empire, founded 1526 CE

Agra as a Garden City

Fatehpur Sikri and religious syncretism

Reading

- Koch, Ebba, *The Complete Taj Mahal*. London: Thames and Hudson, 2006. [on reserve]
- Familiarize yourself with Fatehpur Sikri on the UNESCO World Heritage site: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/255/>; take a self-guided virtual tour of the city before class at the 1001 Wonders Site: <http://www.world-heritage-tour.org/asia/south-asia/india/agra/fatehpur-sikri/map.html>
- 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]
- Chaudhuri, Sukanta, Ed., *Calcutta: The Living City*, Vol. 1. Calcutta: Oxford University Press, 1990, 1-63, 156-175 [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:

- Volwahren, Andreas, *Imperial Delhi* (Munich: Prestel, 2002), 7-31, 195-299 (skim sections on precedents, monuments) [on reserve]
- Robert Grant Irving, "Architecture for Empire's Sake: Lutyens's Palace for Delhi," *Perspecta* 18 (1982): 7-23 (JSTOR)

November 3

Chandigarh

Narratives of Partition

Reading:

- Sunil Khilnani, "Cities," in *The Idea of India* (London: Penguin Books, 1997), 107-149 [on reserve]

- 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 Djinnns* [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

August 25

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Discussant: (Instructor)

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Qutb Minar; Lal Kot; Hauz Khas; Siri

Discussant: _____

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Tughluqabad, exodus to Daulatabad, Hauz Khas (Historic Preservation), Lodi Tombs

Discussant: _____

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Fatehpur Sikri and religious syncretism

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Sovereignty and the cityscape

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Urban planning, modernity and empire

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Colonialism, Race and Modernity

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Colonialism and Class

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