



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

ASIA_V 428 - Mughal India

Naveena Naqvi

This course explores the cultural encounters and social processes that went into the making of the Mughal empire, a sophisticated polity that dominated the Indian subcontinent in the centuries following its foundation by the Central Asian prince Zahir al-Din Babur in 1526. Mughal India found its place in an early-modern world dominated by expansive, large-scale polities.

We will read works of scholarship dealing with such topics as the religious and literary cultures and political and social structure of the empire. We will also read selections in translation from the rich body of primary sources that survive from the period, including memoirs, chronicles, biographies, poetry, and travelogues. Over these six weeks, we will ask the following questions: What can Mughal India tell us about the ways that empires manage the cultural and religious diversity of their subjects? How did ordinary subjects engage with the Mughal state? What was the place of art & literature in imperial culture?

Mode of Delivery: Online

Sample Readings

Babur, *Baburnama* (The Memoirs of Babur), excerpts (5 pages) – Excerpts from the memoirs of the founder of the Mughal empire

François Bernier, "Letter to Colbert," (39 pages) – An influential description of the Mughal empire by a European observer.

Assignments

Final Essay | 30%

Midterm Essay | 30%