**Cultures & Contexts: India - V55.0516**  
Spring 2011/TR 11:00-12:15 PM

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**  
This course introduces the history, culture, society, and politics of modern India. Home to one billion people, eight major religions, twenty official languages (with hundreds of dialects), histories spanning several millenia, and a tremendous variety of customs, traditions, and ways of life, India is almost iconic for its diversity. We examine the challenges posed by such diversity as well as how this diversity has been understood, represented, and managed, both historically and contemporarily. Topics to be covered include caste, gender, social identity, social inequality, religion, religious nationalism, colonialism, anticolonial nationalism, nation-building, violence, and popular culture.

**REQUIREMENTS**  
I. Exams: 45%  
Both exams will consist of a combination of short answer and essay questions.  
II. Assignments – 35% consisting of 3 short papers ranging from 2-8 pages  
III. Recitations – 20% - Attendance is mandatory

**COURSE MATERIALS**  
Chatterjee, Gayatri  
2002  *Mother India*. BFI Film Classics.  
Eck, Diana  
Ganti, Tejaswini  
Narayan, Kirin.  
  - There will also be a series of readings available for you to read/download/print from the course’s Blackboard site, these will be marked with a B on the syllabus

**COURSE TOPICS:**  
- The politics of representation  
- Social Organization: caste and class  
- Popular Hinduism  
- Hindu Nationalism  
- The politics of history  
- Colonialism  
- Anti-colonial nationalism  
- Partition of the subcontinent  
- Postcolonial nationalism and nation-building  
- Kashmir conflict
- Popular culture – specifically popular Hindi cinema, aka “Bollywood”