



RE: 317 SIKHISM: SCRIPTURE, SACRED MUSIC, AND ART

1. Michael Ondaatje, The English Patient
2. Harbans Singh, The Heritage of the Sikhs
3. Bhai Vir Singh, Sundari
4. Khushwant Singh, A Train to Pakistan
5. W.H. McLeod, Sikhism
6. Singh, Nikky-Guninder Kaur, The Name of My Beloved
7. Bapsi Sidhwa, Cracking India
8. In addition, there will be materials distributed in class and books on reserve in Miller.

Requirements:

Weekly class participation and written responses (40%)

Mid-term examination --November 3 (30%)

Final Paper (30%)

Sept 8 Introduction: Methodology and approach

Sept 15 Sikhism and its representation in modern literature

Reading: Ondaatje, The English Patient

Compare and contrast the portrayal of Kirpal Singh in Ondaatje's novel and the Hollywood version.

Sept 22 Rituals

- o Slide show: Centrality of the Guru Granth in the Sikh way of life
- o Worship
- o Rituals
- o Rites of Passage
- o Celebrations and Commemorations
- o Festivals
- o Sacred Space
- o Resonances of Granthian poetry in everyday life
- o Readings:
 1. Nikky Singh, Why did I not Light up the Fire?:
 2. The Feminization of Ritual in Sikhism"
 3. Nikky Singh, Sikhism (chapters 6 and 7)
 4. McLeod, Sikhism (chapters 7, 10, 11)
 5. Handout XX (Sikh Rahitmaryada and theory)

Sept 29 Sikhism and Its Categorizations

Readings 1-5 are in Miller:

1. Charles Wilkins, "The Seeks and their College at Patna"
2. Mark Juergensmeyer, "The Forgotten Tradition: Sikhism in the Study of World Religion" in Sikh Studies: Comparative Perspectives in a Changing Tradition (Berkeley, 1979) pp 13-23.
3. Paul Courtright, "Syncretism and the Formation of the Sikh Tradition" in Punjab Past and Present, pp. 417-432.
4. Stephen Dunning, "The Sikh Religion: An Examination of Some of the Western Studies in the Journal of Religious Studies, pp. 1-23.
5. Nikky Singh, "The Myth of the Founder: The Janamsakhis and Sikh Tradition" in History of Religions (University of Chicago, 1992) pp. 329-343.
6. Guest Speaker: Brian Axel

October 6 Theological Concepts

- Ultimate Reality
- Creation
- Word
- Hukam
- Karma
- Nadari
- Haumai
- Nam
- Readings:
 1. Selections from Nikky Singh, The Name of My Beloved pp. 45-72; 113-128; 163-170
 2. Harbans Singh, Heritage of the Sikhs, pp. 13-50
 3. H.W. McLeod, Guru Nanak and the Sikh Religion (Delhi: Oxford Univ. Press, 1968) Chapter 5: "The Teachings of Guru Nanak"

Oct. 13 Sacred Literature and the Artistic Imagination

- "Sukhmani" in The Name of My Beloved, pp.173-240
- "Barah Maha" in The Name of My Beloved, pp.145-159
- English translations of Sikh Scripture: The Name of My Beloved, pp. 31-40;
- **Sikh Scriptural Music**
 - The Word as music
 - Musical Patterns used in the Guru Granth
 - Amrita Rasa as the highest form of Religio-Aesthetic experience

Oct. 20: Guru Gobind Singh and the Crystallization of the Sikh Tradition

Readings:

1. The Name of My Beloved, pp. 75-111; 131-135
2. Harbans Singh, The Heritage of the Sikhs, Chapter 6
3. Nikky Singh, Feminine Principle in the Sikh Vision of the Transcendent, Chapter 4

Oct. 27: Sikhism: Empire and Decadence

1. Harbans Singh, Heritage of the Sikhs, pp. 144-186;

2. Selections from Queen Victoria's Maharajah: Duleep Singh

Nov. 3 *MID-TERM EXAMINATION**

Nov 10 Exegesis: Poetry through Poetry

Readings:

- Bhai Vir Singh, Sundari and selections from his poetry will be handed out
- Nikky Singh, Chapter in Texts in Context

Nov. 17 The Partition of Punjab: 1947 and Mahatma Gandhi and the Sikhs

Readings:

- Khushwant Singh, A Train to Pakistan
- Bapsi Sidhwa, Cracking India

Dec 1 Sikhism in North America

Guest Speaker: Cynthia Mahmood McLeod, Sikhism (chapter 13: Sikhs of the Diaspora)

First Draft of Term Paper due December 1

Dec 8 Student Presentations

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