

## **(Provisional Syllabus) HH 4024: *Lineage, Ritual, and the State in Asia***

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For this semester, this course will focus on the Mughal Empire, one of the biggest empires in the early modern world.

### **Requirements and Expectations**

The assignments for this course all grow out of an individual map project that each student will undertake. In week 1 each student will set up a map in mymaps - googlemaps and choose a Mughal era text to focus on for the semester.

**Weekly Submissions - 30%:** Each week by the day of the class, you must upload an entry on your map, focusing on an interesting aspect of the text you have discovered. This could be any kind of an event (eg. the performance of a song, poem or dance, a battle, the arrival of a gift or envoy, a debate, the building of a fort, a visit to a religious or historical site, a birth, a death, a new policy, an argument or debate, a picnic, the establishment of a garden etc). The entry should include the date and place of the event, an extract from the primary source, other visual materials relevant to the event (paintings, material objects, pop cultural connections) and a 300-500 word analysis of what we can learn from the event. Your analysis should be informed by your own understanding and close reading of the primary source as well as by a relevant secondary source on the broader issue, which should be cited. So, an entry focusing on Babur's establishment of a garden might include discussion of the extract from the Baburnama; paintings of the garden's construction; and scholarly arguments about Mughal gardens.

**Oral Research Essay Proposal - 15%:** By week 8 you should have a sense of the contents of the Mughal text you are using. Now you need to think about a research question for your final essay assignment. Your final essay should focus on a theme you have noticed in the text you have been reading and annotating. Drawing from the entries made on your map so far, present a proposal for a final essay to your peers in class, who will ask you questions about it. It should contain the following elements:

1. Statement of the essay question (this is not the same as an essay topic or subject area and needs to take the form of a *question*).
2. Summary of background research conducted to date, noting: i) the key issues in the secondary source literature; ii) the available primary sources for the topic.

**Oral Presentation of Material Object – 15%:** In Week 11 - Make a presentation about one material artefact you have found that relates to your research project to the class. This could be a painting, a textile, a piece of jewellery, a book, a bowl, a textile, or something else. How does this single object help you tell a history of the Mughal empire? After the presentation, there will be a brief Q&A session.

**Final Essay – 40%:** In week 13, you will write a timed essay in class that answers your research question. You will handwrite the essay, but you will have access to your map and the annotations you have made on it to help you remember the various primary sources and secondary sources you have read.

### **Course Outline**

**Week 1:** Introduction to the Mughals – ancestors, lineage and homelands

**Week 2:** Administration – mansabdar system

**Week 3:** Gender – warriors, servants, gentlemen

**Week 4:** Religion – Sufism, the Ulama

**Week 5:** Religion – Hinduism, Christianity

**Week 6:** Knowledge, learning and ritual – astronomy,

**Week 7:** Courtly society – poets, courtesans, gardens and luxury goods

**Week 8:** Research Essay Proposal Presentations

**Week 9:** Gender – princesses, queens and harem culture

**Week 10:** Art and architecture – paintings, material culture and buildings

**Week 11:** Material Culture Presentations

**Week 12:** Mughals in popular culture

**Week 13:** In class final essay