

History of Indian Journalism

Course description and rationale

This advanced undergraduate-level course explores the emergence and growth of modern news media in India. Although the development of news media was, and continues to be, more or less a constant process, the course focuses on key moments or points of rupture in Indian history that affected journalism and vice-versa. In this regard, the history of news media dovetails with socio-cultural and political developments in India and internationally during the past few centuries. The emphasis in this module is on English-language news media, although select readings on vernacular language news media are also included. The contents of the course draw from a wide range of literature including classic books, journal articles, documentaries, podcasts, and newspaper archives. Students learn, through developing a paper, to do archival research of primary news texts. Since the rationale of the course is to enrich the understanding of Indian journalism history in light of contemporary media concerns, students complete two historical interview assignments involving past and current events and personalities.

Objectives:

- To study the emergence and growth of news media in the Indian and global context.
- To understand the role of journalism in shaping key events in Indian history.
- To read, discuss and critique historical material.
- To learn to conduct archival research.

Grading

Historical Interview I	20 points
Historical Interview II	20 points
Final Paper	40 points
Attendance	10 points
Participation	10 points
Total	100 points

Rules and regulations (syllabus insert – TBD)

Calendar:

Week One (Pre-colonial press)

Day 1

- First class meeting, course overview

Day 2

- Chapter 1. Hofmeyr, I. (2013). *Gandhi's Printing Press: Experiments in Slow Reading*. Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.
- Chapter 8. Carey, J.W. (1989). *Communication as Culture*. New York: Routledge.

Week Two (Colonial press)

Day 1

- Jeffrey, R. (2009). Testing Concepts about Print, Newspapers, and Politics: Kerala, India, 1800–2009. *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 68(2), pp 465-489.
- Gupta, U.D. (1977). The Indian Press 1870-1880: A Small World of Journalism. *Modern Asian Studies*, 11(2), pp. 213-235.

Day 2

- TBD. Codell, J.F. (2010). *Imperial Co-Histories: National Identities and the British and Colonial Press*. NJ: Associated University Presses.
- TBD. Starr, P. (2006). *The Creation of the Media*. Basic Books. New York: Diane Publishing Company.

Week Three (Colonial press contd.)

Day 1

- TBD. Keay, J (2000). *India: A history*. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press.
- Chapman, J. & Allison, K. (2011). Women and the press in British India, 1928-1934: A Window for Protest? *International Journal of Social Economics*, 38(8), pp. 676-692.

Day 2

- Introduction. Kaul, C. (2006). *Media and the British Empire*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- TBD. Starr, P. (2006). *The Creation of the Media*. Basic Books. New York: Diane Publishing Company.

Week Four (Independence movement)**Day 1**

- TBD. Jagannathan, N.S. (1999). *Independence and the Indian Press*. Delhi: Konark Publishers.
- Chapter 6. Raghavan, G.N.S. (1994). *The Press in India*. New Delhi: Gyan Publishing House.

Day 2

- Kaul, C. (2008). “At the Stroke of the Midnight Hour”: Lord Mountbatten and the British Media at Indian Independence. *The Round Table*, 97(398), 677-693.
- TBD. Guha, R. (2007). *India After Gandhi*. Delhi: Harper Perennial

Week Five (The Emergency)**Day 1**

- TBD. Manekar, D.R. (1978). *The press vs the government before and during emergency*. Delhi: Clarion Books.
- Chapters 7, 8 & 9. Verghese, B.G. (2010). *First Draft*. Delhi: Tranquebar Press

Day 2

Workshop Historical Interview I

Week Six (The Emergency contd.)

Day 1

- Rampal, K.R. (1984). Adversary Vs. Developmental Journalism: Indian Mass Media At the Crossroads. *International Communication Gazette*, 34(3), pp 3-20.
- Maliakan, J. (1987). Curbing the Press. *Index On Censorship*, 16, pp. 20-21.
- Jablons, P.H. (1978). India's Press. *Columbia Journalism Review*, 17(2), p. 33.

Day 2

- Ramaprasad, J. (1987). Pre-, During and Post-Censorship Coverage of India by the New York Times. *Newspaper Research Journal*, 9(1), 19-29.
- Rajagopal, A. (2011). The Emergency as Prehistory of the New Indian Middle Class. *Modern Asian Studies*, 45(5), pp. 1003-1049.

Historical Interview I due in class.

Week Seven (Media at the beginning of Liberalization)

Day 1

- Ram, N. (1994). Foreign Media Entry into the Press Issues and Implications. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 29(43), pp. 2787-2790.
- Ahmed, S.A. (1986). The Language Press in India. *International Communication Gazette*, 38, pp 71-82.

Day 2

- Rampal, K.R. (1984). Adversary Vs. Developmental Journalism: Indian Mass Media At the Crossroads. *International Communication Gazette*, 34(3), pp 3-20.
- TBD. Jeffrey, R. (2003). *India's Newspaper revolution: Capitalism, Politics and the Indian Language Press*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Week Eight (Indian media in the age of globalization)

Day 1

- TBD. Rajagopal, A. (2001). *Politics After Television*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Nair, T.S. (1997). Jeffrey's Reading of Malayalam Press: A Blindfold Stab? *Economic and Political Weekly*, 32(35), pp. 2184-2187.

Day 2

- Chapters 1-5. Athique, A. (2012). *Indian Media*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Week Nine (Growth of television media)**Day 1**

- TBD. Page, D. & Crawley, W. (2001). *Satellites Over South Asia*. London: Sage Publications.
- Introduction and Chapter 1. Kumar, S. (2006). *Gandhi Meets Primetime: Globalization and Nationalism in Indian Television*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Day 2

Workshop Historical Interview II

Week Ten (Television media in the global context)**Day 1**

- Part 1. Postman, N. (2006). *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. New York: Penguin.
- Chapter 2. Kumar, S. (2006). *Gandhi Meets Primetime: Globalization and Nationalism in Indian Television*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Day 2

- Part 2. Postman, N. (2006). *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. New York: Penguin.
- Chapter 5. Kumar, S. (2006). *Gandhi Meets Primetime: Globalization and Nationalism in Indian Television*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Historical Interview II due in class

Week Eleven (Media in the neo-liberal age)**Day 1**

- Auletta, K. (2012). Citizens Jain: Why India's newspaper industry is thriving. *The New Yorker*. Retrieved from <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2012/10/08/citizens-jain>
- U. Rao (2010). *News as Culture: Journalistic Practices and the Remaking of Indian Leadership Traditions*. New York: Berghahn Press.

Day 2

- Watkins, J., Kitner, K.R. & Mehta, D. Mobile and smartphone use in urban and rural India. *Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies*, 26(5), pp. 685-697.
- Chaudhuri, M. (2010). Indian media and its transformed public. *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 44(1), pp. 57-78.

Week Twelve (Digital media and citizen journalism)**Day 1**

- Bergen, M. (2014). An App for India's Babel Problem. *The New Yorker*. Retrieved from <http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/an-app-for-indias-babel-problem>
- Sonwalker, P. (2009). Citizen journalism in India: The politics of recognition. In: Allan, S. and Thorsen, E., Eds. (2009) *Citizen Journalism: Global Perspectives*. New York: Peter Lang, pp. 75-84.

Day 2

- TBD. Udupa, S. (2015). *Making News in Global India*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Week Thirteen**Day 1**

Class meetings for final paper.

Day 2

Class meetings for final paper.

Week Fourteen (Holiday week)

Please spend some time working on the final paper!

Week Fifteen (Indian media and ICT revolution)**Day 1**

- Thussu, D.K. (2012). A Million Media Now! The Rise of India on the Global Scene. *The Round Table*, 101(5), 435-446.

Day 2

- Jeffrey. R. (2014). India's 'Bully Pulpit': Media in a Time of Digital Revolution. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 29(43), pp. 44-48

Week Sixteen**Day 1**

Workshop final paper

Day 2

Final paper submission