HIST271: The Twentieth Century World: Themes and Issues

The course will interrogate diverse themes which have integrated as well as differentiated the twentieth century world. These include selected issues and themes in the study of political-intellectual cultures; technology and communication, environment and ecology; and political economy, state authority, power asymmetries and insurgencies. The aim of the course would be to familiarize them with social-scientific tools of analysis, enabling them to study the genealogies and present conditions of the contemporary world which they inhabit.

(The exact course content will change from semester to semester, depending on the availability of the course instructors and their academic interest and expertise. Apart from the study of existing academic literature, the students will also be encouraged to undertake a preliminary study of primary sources.)

Themes and Issues (for Even Semester 2014)

(1) Empire & Culture
(2) Environmental Ideas
(3) Pan-Asianism
(4) Pan-Islamism and Arab Modernism

Core Readings:  

**Empire & Culture**

Ranajit Guha, “On Some Aspects of the Historiography of India”, *Subaltern Studies I.*
Timothy Mitchell, *Colonizing Egypt*
Benedit Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

**Technology and Communication**

E.J. Hobsbawm, *Age of Empire*

**Environmental Ideas**

Ramchandra Guha, *Environmentalism: A Global History*
Richard Grove, *Green Imperialism* (Introduction and Conclusion)
*Ravi S. Rajan, Modernising Nature* (Selected chapters)

**Pan-Asianism**

Rustom Homi Bharucha, *Another Asia: Rabindranath Tagore & Okakura Tenshin* (Delhi: OUP, 2009 ed.)

**Arab Modernism**


SVR Nasr, "Religious Modernism in the Arab World, India and Iran: The Perils and Prospects of a Discourse" The Muslim World, 1993, - Wiley Online Library

**Pan-Islamism**

Javed Majeed, "Geographies of Subjectivity, Pan-Islamism and Muslim Separatism: Muhammad Iqbal and Selfhood" *Modern Intellectual History*, Vol. 4, Issue 1, April, 2007

Method of Evaluation:

There will be a mid-term assessment (term paper) worth 20 marks, and an end of term assessment (term paper) worth 30 marks.