

Rationale for new course, History 543.04: Contemporary South Asia, 1947-present
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History 543.04 would fulfill several curricular needs. First, it completes the 543 sequence. The three existing courses under this number examine the history of the South Asian subcontinent from 2500 BCE to Pakistani and Indian independence in 1947. This course would complete that chronological narrative; moreover, since there are no 100- or 300-level courses focusing on the region, History 543.04 would be the only undergraduate course in the curriculum that covers the contemporary period. Second, as part of the 543 sequence, History 543.04 focuses on the entire South Asian subcontinent; for the post-1947 period, however, this entails some attention to the histories of Pakistan and Bangladesh as well as India. This focus allows for comparative and regional perspectives that move beyond the confines of national history. Third, the course would bring our curriculum into line with developing historiographical trends, which no longer view 1947 as a definitive watershed in South Asian history. Rather, tracing continuities and discontinuities along the colonial/postcolonial divide, the new course will allow our students to engage with important trends in current scholarship.