

HIS 348
Colonial South Asia

T/Th, 1:15-2:35pm

Satisfies: CER, SBS+ [DEC: J]

Prof. Eric Beverley

This course will examine in detail key themes such as shifting eighteenth century politics, the rise of the colonial state and changes in sovereignty, formation of the colonial economy, dynamics of global connectivity, remaking of social categories (caste, religious community, gender), anti-colonial and nationalist movements, and decolonization. Overall, the course provides a framework for assessing both the profound violence and change wrought by colonialism and the agency of South Asians in the making of their own modernity. More broadly, it surveys the history of South Asia (contemporary India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, with some consideration of Nepal, Afghanistan, and Myanmar) in the era of British colonial domination, c. 1750–1950. Central topics include the late pre-colonial context, the rise of formal colonial rule, economic and social transformations, anti-colonial nationalism, decolonization, and debates over the ethics of both colonialism and different schemes for bringing about its end.