This course focuses on the figure of the courtesan and her representation in literature. The approach is cross-cultural and interdisciplinary. The first half of the course will focus on courtesan cultures in South Asia.

**Required Readings**

6. Readings uploaded to Smartsite

**Requirements**

1. Weekly discussion questions circulated prior to class.

   Each student will contribute at least one question on the reading. These should be received by the class participants by 6 pm on Tuesday (the day prior to our regular class meetings). Please print the questions out in preparation for class, and come prepared to discuss them.

2. Your Readings

   All students will contribute one short primary reading on courtesans. We will discuss these readings in the final 2 weeks of the class. You must decide on your reading by the second week, so that we have time to secure the sources, and make them available to the class. In addition, you will also choose one article from *The Courtesan's Arts* to present alongside your source. You
will be responsible for leading discussion on your materials. We will have four presenters for every class. Each presenter will have approximately 35-40 minutes for their selected topic.

3. Final Paper (20-25 pages)

Your final paper will be due on **Wednesday, June 8**. Please submit a hard copy of the paper to me. Please do not email your paper to me. Your final paper will be based on the readings you select to present on in the final two weeks of class.

**Reading Schedule**

**Week 1: Wed, March 30**


**Week 2: Wed, April 6**

**Primary Source:**

1. Sudraka. *The Little Clay Cart*. (Sanskrit Drama)


**Secondary Source:**


**Week 3: Wed, April 13**

**Primary Source:**

1. Ruswa, Mirza Hadi. *Umrao Jan Ada* (Urdu)

**Secondary Source:**


GUEST SPEAKER: PROF. RAJIV SAXENA, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI

Week 4: Wed, April 20

Primary Source:

Secondary Source:


Week 5: Wed, April 27

Primary Source:
1. Ramamrittamal. Dasigal Mosavalai (Tamil)


Secondary Sources:

Week 6: Wed, May 4

3
Secondary Sources:


GUEST SPEAKER: PROF. INDIRA VISWANATHAN PETERSON, MT.HOLYOKE COLLEGE

Week 7: Wed, May 11

Primary Source

1. TBA

Secondary Source:


GUEST SPEAKER: PROF. DAVESH SONEJI, MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Week 8: Wed, May 18

Primary Source

1. Selections of poems by the Italian courtesans Gaspara Tampa, Gaspara Stampa, Tullia d’Aragona, Veronica Franco and the French courtesan, Louise Lapa. (Smartsite)

Secondary Sources:


GUEST SPEAKER: PROF. JULIANA SCHIESARI, UC DAVIS

Wed, May 25

Seminar Participant readings and presentations

Wed, June 1
Seminar Participant readings and presentations