

**Date:** 25 November 2009  
**Subject:** Proposed Interdisciplinary Minor in South Asia Studies  
**From:** Larry Krissek, Chair, Interdisciplinary Initiatives Subcommittee

The Interdisciplinary Initiatives Subcommittee considered the proposal for a new Interdisciplinary Minor in South Asia Studies at its meeting of 17 November 2009, following approval of a new course that will serve as the required foundational course in this minor (ASC 265, Introduction to South Asia). Jessica Mercerhill provided background about the development of this proposal. Subsequent discussion by the Subcommittee concentrated on the distribution of subjects treated by courses within the proposed minor and, therefore, the potential for students to focus their work within the minor.

As proposed, the South Asia Studies Minor will require completion of at least 25 credit hours; these include the required 5 credit foundational course (ASC 265), and at least 20 additional credits from a list of approved electives. The approved electives include courses from Comparative Studies, History, History of Art, Linguistics, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Philosophy, and Political Science. The elective coursework must be taken from at least two different academic units.

In addition to courses from the approved list of electives, 5 credit hours completed at the 200-level or above in Hindi, Urdu, Persian, or Tibetan can be counted toward this minor. Students also can petition to count credits from special topics offerings in Comparative Studies, English, Sociology, and Women's Studies, if the content of that offering is relevant to South Asia.

The Subcommittee's discussions of this proposal centered on two topics:

- 1) noting that a student within this minor could focus his/her coursework quite specifically – for example, focusing entirely on India, or almost entirely on Buddhism and Buddhist art. The committee that developed this proposal intended to provide this flexibility, given the range of potential interests by students and the breadth of the topic of “South Asia Studies”; and
- 2) noting that present list of elective courses did not include any options in the sciences (either social/behavioral sciences and natural sciences). A quick review of the Course Offerings Bulletin did not identify any obvious candidates for inclusion; however, units in the social/behavioral sciences and the natural sciences are welcome to propose courses they would like to be considered for addition to the South Asia Studies Minor.

Following this discussion, the Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the proposed Interdisciplinary Minor in South Asia Studies. As a result, that proposal is being moved to the CCI for its consideration.

# **Proposal for an Interdisciplinary Minor in South Asia Studies Arts and Sciences**

## **Development Committee:\***

Richard Davis  
Susan Huntington  
Pranav Jani  
Brian Joseph  
Christine Keating  
Margaret Mills  
Anthony Mughan  
Mytheli Sreenivas  
Hugh Urban

\* Sai Bhatawadekar (now at University of Hawaii) played a key role in moving this proposal along through December 2008.

## **Proposal for an Interdisciplinary Minor in South Asia Studies**

South Asia is an area rich in culture and history and is now increasingly important on the global scene. Moreover, there is a large and active South Asian community in Ohio and especially Central Ohio. Academic interest in this area, as measured by faculty research foci and courses offered, has been high at Ohio State for many decades and is on the increase, to judge from recent new course offerings in various departments by South Asian specialists. Furthermore, in recent years, several undergraduates have expressed a desire – and have successfully petitioned – to study South Asia in a concentrated way. To date, however, there has been no single formalized program that ties together available resources on South Asia at this university for such interested undergraduates. We propose therefore the creation of an undergraduate minor in South Asian Studies, drawing on existing courses in history, language, art, literature, and religion, among other topics, and offering students a coherent exploration of this fascinating part of the world. The minor addresses the following learning outcomes:

1. Students should be able to articulate an understanding of the history, society and culture associated with the South Asia region.
2. Students should be able to articulate an understanding of the religions associated with the South Asia region and their impact on the peoples living there.
3. Students should be able to articulate an understanding of the arts and literatures associated with the South Asia region.

### **Development of the Minor**

The development of this minor arose from faculty interest. A core group of faculty with similar interests was brought together at the request of a few faculty members. After this initial group met to establish that there was a significant interest, notices of further development were sent to additional faculty and chairs of academic units who were thought to have possible interest in the area. Faculty from the following academic units participated in the development of the minor: English; History; Linguistics; Near Eastern Languages and Cultures; Undergraduate International Studies Program; and Women's Studies. Comments and suggestions were solicited from the chairs of all academic units with courses listed on the curriculum, and involvement was encouraged from throughout the Arts and Sciences and other colleges on campus. The proposal was shared with various student groups and feedback solicited.

### **Curriculum**

The proposed undergraduate minor in South Asia Studies requires completion of a minimum of 25 credit hours. Students are required to take a new course, ASC 265 Introduction to South Asia which will provide a foundational overview to the area and the associated knowledge base. In addition, students must take coursework from at least two academic units. Language coursework is strongly encouraged. Students completing course work in Hindi, Urdu, Persian or Tibetan at the 200 level or above may count 5 hours of the language toward the minor.

### **Required Course:**

Arts and Sciences 265      Introduction to South Asia

## **Courses:**

### Comparative Studies

Comp Stds 270	Introduction to Comparative Religion (5 crs)
Comp Stds 321	Religions of India (5 crs)
Comp Stds/EALL 323	The Buddhist Tradition (5 crs)
Comp Stds 345	South Asian American Religion and Culture (5 crs)

### History

History 355	History of Afghanistan (5 crs)
History 543.01	Ancient India (5 crs)
History 543.02	Muslim India (5 crs)
History 543.03	Colonial India (5 crs)
History 543.04	Post-colonial India (5 crs)

### History of Art

History of Art 213	Asian Art (5 crs)
History of Art 668	The Buddhist Art of Gandhāra and Kāśmīr
History of Art 670	Buddhist Art: Theory and History (5 crs)
History of Art 671	Art of India I (Ancient- Gupta) (5 crs)
History of Art 672	Art of India II (Gupta-Colonial) or (500-1200 Buddhist-Hindi) (5 crs)
History of Art 675	Art of India III (Paintings) (5 crs)
History of Art 676	Hindu Iconography (5 crs)
History of Art 771	Studies in the Art of India (3-5 crs)

### Linguistics

Sanskrit 621	Elementary Sanskrit (5 crs)
Sanskrit 622	Classical Sanskrit (5 crs)
Linguistics 623	Topics in Indic Linguistics (3, 5 crs)

### Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

NELC 380	Every Day Life in South Asia (5 crs)
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### Philosophy

Philosophy 215	Asian Philosophies (5 crs)
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### Political Science

Political Science 539	Contemporary Politics of South Asia (5 crs)
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## **Special Topics Courses:**

Students may petition to use courses such as but not limited to the following when the content is relevant. They should check with advising as to the appropriateness.

Comp Stds 202.01	Literature and Religion (5 crs)
Comp Stds 205	Literature and Ethnicity (5 crs)
Comp Stds 241	Introduction to Asian American Studies (5 crs)
Comp Stds 651	Topics in Comparative Studies: South Asian Film (5 crs)
Comp Stds 677.04	Comparative Folk groups: Vernacular Islam in South and West Asia (5 crs)
English 564.04	Major Authors in 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Literature in English: Salman Rushdie

	(5 crs)
English 581	Special Topics in U.S. Ethnic Literature (5 crs)
English 583	Special Topics in World Literature: Imagining India: 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Literature and Film (5 crs)
Sociology 382	Sociology of Asian American Life (5 crs)
Women's Studs H296	Topics in Women's Studies: Women in the Islamic World (5 crs)

### **Administration and Advising**

The minor will be listed in the OSU Bulletin as “an interdisciplinary minor offered through the College of Arts and Sciences.” An interdisciplinary Faculty Advisory Committee will be formed with representatives from the major departments offering coursework within the minor and will include a representative from the university academic advising community. The Committee will be appointed by the Associate Executive Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences according to the guidelines approved for interdisciplinary programs by the College of Arts and Sciences Committee on Curriculum and Instruction (CCI). This committee will evaluate the minor curriculum and course offerings and meet at least once per year in order to make recommendations to the CCI Subcommittee A regarding policy rules, the addition of courses to the minor, student learning outcome assessment, and the status of the minor. The CCI will have curricular oversight of the program.

Advising will be done by departmental advisors, in conjunction with Arts and Sciences advisors, as well as participating faculty. Program materials will be available through the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs within the College of Arts and Sciences, the Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Office, and through the interdisciplinary program website of the College of Arts and Sciences. Advisors will be provided with any needed education regarding the requirements of the minor and the selection of courses. Students will be able to declare this minor with their advisors and the Degree Audit System will be used to complete degree certification.

### **Enrollment Projection**

It is expected that this minor will be attractive to a wide variety of majors. It is expected that students majoring in comparative studies; business; english; history; history of art; international studies; linguistics; and near eastern languages and cultures will show particular interest; although students from an even wider range of majors with interests in this world region may be drawn to this program.

The minor will be advertised to students in several ways: through the creation of a minor requirement sheet maintained by the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Office and circulated to advisors and relevant faculty, through the posting of curricular information on the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs within the College of Arts and Sciences website, and through the establishing of links on participating departments' websites. It is expected that the minor will initially attract a total of 20-25 students and grow to attract 45-50 students within five years. The Faculty Advisory Committee will monitor growth of student participation in the minor and make recommendations about possible increases in seat availability, if needed.

## **Resources and Expenses**

Current facilities and staff resources are adequate to support this minor. The interdisciplinary cooperation of units allows students to benefit from the resources that exist in disparate units in such a way that enhances the networking amongst units. As the minor assists in connecting interested students to specific courses, it is expected that new courses may be developed as there will be a body of students to populate them. Our current budgetary system should reinforce the development of new courses as the interested student body grows. See Appendix A for a listing of faculty who regularly teach courses and conduct research in this area.

## **Competitiveness With Other Institutions**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison offers a Ph.D. minor and a B.A. concentration through their Center for Southeast Asian Studies. They have 35 course options from 9 academic departments for the Southeast Asia program.

UC Berkeley has an undergraduate major and minor in South and Southeast Asian Studies. Students can choose to focus on South and Southeast Asian civilizations or literatures and languages. South and Southeast Asian Studies is its own department and offers more than 25 courses under this heading.

The University of Pennsylvania offers a South Asia Studies major and minor program. While several South Asia Studies courses are offered under this heading, the major and minor require several courses from other departments (thereby increasing the interdisciplinarity of the program).

Duke University has a Center for South Asia Studies. The Center offers a wide range of courses in the languages, literatures, history, religions, political science, anthropology, and arts of South Asia, but does not appear to offer a minor or major.

The University of North Carolina has an Asian Studies Program which offers a concentration in South Asian Studies. This concentration consists of 20 possible courses from four departments.

North Carolina State University has an area studies concentration in 'East and Southeast Asia' as well as 'South Asia and Middle East' as part of their International Studies Program. These area studies courses come from seven departments.

The University of Chicago offers a South Asian studies undergraduate major and minor as well as B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. concentrations for students from over 25 departments and professional programs. Most of the required courses are offered through the South Asian Languages and Civilizations department.

The University of Iowa has a South Asian Studies Program which offers undergraduate majors through the Department of Asian Languages and Literature. Students can also major in International Studies (which is an interdisciplinary program) with an emphasis in South Asian Studies.

Indiana University has an India Studies major, minor and certificate program which requires 15 credit hours of class work in South Asian culture.

The University of Michigan has a Center for South Asian Studies which offers a MBA/MA and graduate certificate program.

## **Administrative Support for the Minor**

The establishment of this minor is supported at various levels. It has the support of the Executive Dean of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Joe Steinmetz. Additional program concurrence and support has been obtained from many academic units and administrators (see Appendix C).

## **Implementation Date**

The minor in South Asia Studies is proposed for implementation in Spring Quarter 2010.

## **Student Learning Assessment**

### **Learning Goals:**

1. Students will be able to articulate an understanding of the history, society and culture associated with South Asia region.
2. Students will be able to articulate an understanding of the religions associated with the South Asia region and their impact on the peoples living there.
3. Students will be able to articulate an understanding of the arts and literatures associated with the South Asia region.

### **Assessment Plan:**

1. Enrollment will be evaluated, as possible, on both the program and course levels on a yearly basis. On a program level, the number of students enrolled in the minor will be tracked. Additional student information, such as student major, honors and scholar affiliation, course selection, and performance in the minor will be assessed. At a course level, enrollment and seat availability in specific minor courses will be evaluated. Possible barriers to completing the minor in a timely fashion may be shown by enrollment trends. As students may not declare their minor until application for graduation, retrospective data will be collected and compared to data collected on a quarterly and annual basis.
2. As enrollments increase, assessment will move to a survey of graduating minors, again stressing attainment of the above goals, and the structure, availability and sequencing of courses in the minor.
3. Student feedback regarding curricular content of courses will be solicited, especially in courses that are selected by the majority of students for use in the minor.

### **Dissemination:**

The assessment will be supervised by the oversight committee for the minor and the results will be used for considering improvements in the minor program. The oversight committee also will summarize the results, along with any plans for changes and improvements in the minor, as a report to be distributed to the Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary Subcommittee and to the faculty and academic units participating in the minor.

## APPENDIX A: FACULTY

Faculty and teaching staff listed below have research and/or teaching interests in South Asia Studies or related disciplines at The Ohio State University.

\* Faculty not listed here but interested in being part of the minor are encouraged to notify the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs.

Leo Coleman	Comparative Studies
Stephen Dale	History
Richard Davis	Near Eastern Languages and Culture
Pranav Jani	English
Brian Joseph	Linguistics; Slavic & East European Languages and Literatures
Christine Keating	Women's Studies
Inam Khokhar	Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
Thomas Kasulis	Comparative Studies
John Huntington	History of Art
Susan Huntington	History of Art
Margaret Mills	Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
Mari Noda	East Asian Languages and Literatures
Irfan Nooruddin	Political Science
Patricia Sieber	East Asian Languages and Literatures
Mytheli Sreenivas	History; Women's Studies
Hugh Urban	Comparative Studies

## APPENDIX B: Prerequisites for Courses

Prerequisites may be waived or alternate substitutions may be accepted by instructors so students should check with advisors or faculty if this is possible.

### Comparative Studies

Comp Stds 270	English 110 or equivalent
Comp Stds 321	Comp Stds 270 or Rel Stds 270; or Comp Stds 202.01 or 202.02
Comp Stds/EALL 323	Comp Stds 270 or Rel Stds 270; or Comp Stds 202.01 or 202.02
Comp Stds 345	English 110 or equivalent

### History

History 543.01	None
History 543.02	None
History 543.03	None
History 543.04	None

### History of Art

History of Art 213	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr standing or 1 <sup>st</sup> yr standing with credit for History of Art 111, 210, 211, 212, 216, or 250.
History of Art 668	History of Art 213 or permission of instructor
History of Art 670	None
History of Art 671	None
History of Art 672	None
History of Art 675	None



History of Art 676                      None  
History of Art 771                      None

Linguistics

Sanskrit 621                              None  
Sanskrit 622                              Sanskrit 621 or permission of instructor  
Linguistics 623                          Sanskrit 622 or Linguistics 622 or permission of instructor

Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

NELC 380                                English 110 or equivalent

Philosophy

Philosophy 215                        None

Political Science

Political Science 539                  None

**Special Topics Courses:**

Students may petition to use the following topics courses when the content is relevant. They should check with advising as to the appropriateness.

Comp Stds 202.01                      English 110 or equivalent  
Comp Stds 205                          English 110 or equivalent  
Comp Stds 241                          English 110 or equivalent  
Comp Stds 651                          One course in comp std or rel stds  
Comp Stds 677.04                      None  
English 564.04                        None  
English 581                              None  
English 583                              None  
Sociology 382                          None  
Women's Stds H296                    None

**APPENDIX C:**

**Program Concurrence Forms**

Comparative Studies

FAES

History

History of Art

Philosophy

Political Science

Women's Studies

**From:** Eugene Holland [mailto:holland1@humanities.osu.edu]

**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2009 4:36 PM

**Cc:** Julia Watson

**Subject:** RE: Interdisciplinary Minor in South Asia Studies concurrence request

Dear Jessica Mercerhill,

Comparative Studies is happy to give its concurrence to the proposed Interdisciplinary South Asia Studies Minor, and to the new core course, ASC 265, Introduction to South Asia.

*Eugene W. Holland*

Dr. Eugene W. Holland, Chair  
Department of Comparative Studies  
451 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Road  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH 43210  
614-292-2559

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**From:** Valarie Williams [mailto:mockabee.1415@osu.edu]

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2009 6:36 PM

**Subject:** Fwd: Interdisciplinary Minor in South Asia Studies concurrence request

Concurrence from History of Art.

**From:** Lisa Florman <[florman.4@osu.edu](mailto:florman.4@osu.edu)>

**Date:** March 6, 2009 5:56:08 PM EST

Thanks for this, Val. It looks quite good.

Best,  
Lisa

Lisa Florman  
Associate Professor and Acting Chair  
History of Art Department

**From:** Jill Pfister [mailto:pfister.1@osu.edu]

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2009 7:06 AM  
**To:** Jessica Mercerhill  
**Subject:** The Environmenta Citizenship Minor and South Asia Minor

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Committee on Academic Affairs reviewed the minor proposals for Environmental Citizenship and South Asia and offers it's concurrence but does have some comments which are shown below:

Consider adding three more courses to the Social Sciences Perspective of the Environmental Citizenship Minor:

AED Econ/Int Stds 565    Global Climate Change: Economic Implications and Opportunities  
U G 5  
Rural Soc 766                      Environmental Sociology UG 5

Page 2 of the South Asia minor proposal statement #1 indicates "understanding history, society and culture" What about economics, health, environmental issues? These areas are extremely important to understand this part of the world.

Sincerely,

*Jill A. Pfister*

Jill A. Pfister  
Assistant Dean, Academic Affairs  
College Secretary  
The Ohio State University  
100 Agricultural Administration  
2120 Fyffe Road  
Columbus, OH 43210

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**From:** dhubin@gmail.com [mailto:dhubin@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Donald Hubin  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2009 3:36 PM  
**To:** Jessica Mercerhill  
**Subject:** Re: Interdisciplinary Minor in South Asia Studies concurrence request

Dear Jessica,

The Philosophy Department has reviewed the proposal for the Interdisciplinary South Asia Studies Minor and ASC 265. We have no objections and support proposal to develop both the course and the minor.

Best Wishes,

Don

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**From:** Jennifer Siegel [mailto:siegel.83@osu.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2009 10:41 PM

## TRANSMITTAL HISTORY FOR NEW SOUTH ASIA STUDIES MINOR

CCI Interdisciplinary Initiatives Subcommittee

UNAPPROVED Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

### 1. Proposal for an Interdisciplinary Minor in South Asia Studies (return)

#### A. Background:

- The committee has responded to subcommittee's question concerning the chronological distribution of courses. It is the intent of the committee to encourage flexibility when it comes to time periods.
- There is also flexibility for students to focus on certain subject areas. Faculty advisors or major advisors will work with students. (At our 10-27 meeting, one member had expressed concern about scarcity of science courses in proposed minor.)
- Mercerhill provides information on how the courses were selected: First committee came up with learning objectives and then departments were asked to submit courses. If departments did not respond, then their courses are not included. In the future, departments can suggest other courses, if they so desire.

#### B. Discussion:

- Q: What if 265 is the last course students take in the minor? A: That's OK. It's the reality of minors at OSU.
- Comment: p. 3 of proposal: For a topics course like Comp Studies 651, only the "South Asian Film" version of the course would be appropriate.
- J. Davidson: There is an EALL film course (EALL 346 Asian American Film). Why not listed? A: Maybe because it is not taught often.
- Q: Was EALL approached? A: Almost sure. Concern: there is only one EALL course listed, and this one is cross-listed with Comp Studies: Comp Stds/EALL 323 "The Buddhist Tradition." This is a bit strange.
- This minor is a stand-alone minor. Originally, it was going to be housed in International Studies (no longer the case).

Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Shabad, **approved unanimously**

CCI Interdisciplinary Initiatives Subcommittee

Approved Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

### Proposal for an Interdisciplinary minor in South Asia Studies

- Proposal could be more fleshed out.
- p. 10 of concurrence form: "What about economics, health, environmental issues?"; A: The committee would be happy to include those terms if a unit can offer courses that cover them.
- Q: Does Geography not have courses for this minor? A: We asked them and they did not respond.

- Comment: “Geo 513: South Asia: Ecology, Economy, and Politics” exists. This course has no prerequisites.
- Proposal seems weak on physical world. The focus is more on the humanities.
- Requirement: students have to take courses from at least two academic units. A student could actually put a minor together that has nothing to do with contemporary world. Perhaps we should suggest that students take courses within different historical periods. On the other hand, some students might like to concentrate on one historical period.
- Minor needs to be declared before graduation. So we can’t sequence the courses. This makes the core ASC 265 course another problem (that is, this overview course could be taken at the end of the minor). Reaction to that comment: given the reality of minors at Ohio State, it is the one chance that we have to guarantee that students are exposed to a certain content.
- The only way to impose sequencing is by imposing prerequisites.
- Comment: Should we ask for higher level courses in broader range rather than ask for core ASC 265?
- **Feedback: Is the intent to have a broad distribution requirement concerning ancient vs. modern topics?**
- **Sent back.**