

**Arts and Sciences 265
Introduction to South Asia
Winter 2011**

Instructor: Ila Nagar
Office: 371 Hagerty Hall
Office Hours:
Office Phone: 614-292-0028
Email: nagar.5@osu.edu

Course Description: A multi-disciplinary introduction to South Asia's geographical, political, cultural, and religious contexts and connections.

This course is intended to satisfy the GEC requirements for Category 2. Breadth: Section C. Arts and Humanities (3) Cultures and Ideas; and for Category 4. Diversity: (2) International Issues: Non-Western or Global

2. Breadth: C. Arts and Humanities

Goals:

Students evaluate significant writing and works of art. Such studies develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students develop abilities to be informed observers of, or active participants in, the visual, spatial, performing, spoken, or literary arts.
2. Students develop an understanding of the foundations of human beliefs, the nature of reality, and the norms that guide human behavior.
3. Students examine and interpret how the human condition and human values are explored through works of art and humanistic writings.

(3) Cultures and Ideas Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students develop abilities to analyze, appreciate, and interpret major forms of human thought and expression.
2. Students develop abilities to understand how ideas influence the character of human beliefs, the perception of reality, and the norms which guide human behavior.

4. Diversity

(2) International Issues: Non-Western or Global

Goals:

International Issues coursework help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation in an increasingly globalized world.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students exhibit an understanding of some combination of political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical differences in or among the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.
2. Students are able to describe, analyze and critically evaluate the roles of categories such as race, gender, class, ethnicity, national origin and religion as they relate to international/global institutions, issues, cultures and citizenship.
3. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

Expected Learning Outcomes for ASC 265:

This course is designed (for students in any field) as a multi-disciplinary introduction to South Asia, primarily focusing on India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan, but also referring to Afghanistan, Tibet, and Maldives in geographical, political, cultural, and religious context and connections. The course presents an overview of South Asian geography, history, and politics, its international relations, and its role in the global economy. The course also introduces students to the diversity of South Asian culture, including South Asian religions, society, art, literature, and cinema.

We will start with South Asian geography and a brief overview of South Asian history. Within South Asian history, catering to the focus of International Studies Program, the course will emphasize the colonial period, independence struggle, partition, and India-Pakistan relations. We will then discuss South Asian religions, specifically Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, as religious philosophies and practices, but also as cultural and political connections among South Asian countries. We will then discuss South Asia's emerging role in global political, economic, and cultural scene, and finally, we will briefly sample South Asian prose, poetry, and cinema.

Given this initial and overall description, the course is intended to be flexible to student research and interest in specific topics related to South Asia. This course is designed as a collaborative learning experience, which will involve not only reading books, articles, audio-visual material, and web resources, but also student presentations, guest lectures, discussions and debates, and creative cultural events.

Books and Movies (required and suggested):

All books are available for purchase at university bookstores and will be on reserve in the library.

Required:

Bose, Sugata and Ayesha Jalal. Modern South Asia: History, Culture, and Political Economy. New York: Routledge, 2004.

Ganguly, Sumit., eds. South Asia. New York: New York University Press, 2006.

Hagerty, Devin T., eds. South Asia in World Politics. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005.

Mittal, Sushil and Gene Thursby, eds. Religions of South Asia: An Introduction. London: Routledge, 2006.

Suggested Readings for use in Presentations:

Hosseini, Khaled. The Kite Runner. New York: Riverhead Books, 2003.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. Interpreter of Maladies. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999.

Or

Lahiri, Jhumpa. Namesake. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003.

Gandhi. Dir. Richard Attenborough. Perf. Ben Kingsley. Columbia Pictures, 1982.

Lagaan. Dir. Ashutosh Gowariker. Perf. Aamir Khan. Aamir Khan Productions, 2001.

Or

Bombay. Dir. Mani Ratnam. Perf. Arvind Swami, Manisha Koirala. A.B.C.L., Madras Talkies, 1995.

Documentaries, articles, and web based audio-visual material will be used in class to supplement the reading. Suggestions for other books, articles, and movies according to student interest will also be welcome. Required and suggested reading and viewing will be used for presentations, discussions, and reviews.

Graded Assignments:

Newscast	15%	summary with handout of South Asian news
Presentations	30%	with power-point/ handouts on particular day's topics
Midterm	25%	in class
Final Paper	30%	take home

Grading scale:

A (94-100) A- (90-93) B+ (87-89) B (83-86) B- (80-82) C+ (77-79) C (73-76) C- (70-72) D+ (67-69) D (60-66) E (below 60)

Explanation of assignments:

Newscast:

We will assign one person each day to report of current and important South Asian news. You may choose various sources (such as the South Asia section of bbc.com) to keep yourselves informed. You are expected to bring a short handout with bullet-points summarizing the news. A short discussion will follow.

Presentation:

Two or more students will be assigned each day to present on the topics to be discussed on that day. Those of you assigned will be required to prepare a handout on that day's assigned readings, which should include a short summary of the readings, opinion statements, discussion questions, and other material they have looked up on that topic. You are encouraged to supplement your handout with audio-visual or web based material you may have consulted. You are also welcome to present on topics directly related but outside of the day's readings, but if you wish to do so, discuss them with me first.

Midterm:

The midterm will be in-class. A review session will help students prepare for it. The midterm will contain short questions (no multiple-choice).

Final Paper:

Final paper should be 7-10 pages in length. You should choose a topic of your interest related to the areas and issues discussed in class. You should first discuss the topic and the argument format with the instructor (me!). Discussing work-in-progress and discussing drafts is very welcome and encouraged.

Assignment Make-Up Policy:

If for any family, medical, or personal emergency you find it necessary to miss a scheduled examination or assignment, you must contact the instructor as soon as possible. If you are unable to do that, please leave a message with the staff of the Undergraduate International Studies Program (292-9657). Please note that scheduling conflicts with other University activities—such as band, sports, ROTC, etc.—or outside work is generally not a valid excuse for missing any scheduled assignment.

Academic misconduct statement: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Disability statement: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

This schedule is flexible and subject to change depending upon the progress and the interests of the class.

Week	Day	Topic	Newscast Volunteer	Presentation Volunteer
1	Jan 3	Introduction Student survey of interest		
	Jan 5	South Asian Geography Countries, landscape, cities Reading: <u>South Asia</u> , Pages 1-16		
2	Jan 10	South Asian History: Ancient South Asia Reading: <u>Modern South Asia</u> , Pages 8-16		
	Jan 12	South Asian History: Mughal period Reading: <u>Modern South Asia</u> , Pages 17-37		
3	Jan 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day. No classes		
	Jan 19	South Asian History: Colonial Period Reading: <u>Modern South Asia</u> , Pages 38-77		
4	Jan 24	South Asian History: Independence Movement Reading: <u>Modern South Asia</u> , Pages 78-85, 109-119 Movie: <u>Gandhi</u>		
	Jan 26	South Asian History: Independence Movement Reading: <u>Modern South Asia</u> , Pages 120-166 Movie: <u>Gandhi</u>		
5	Jan 31	South Asian Politics and International Relations Post 1950-present Reading: <u>Modern South Asia</u> Pages 157-206		
	Feb 2	Midterm exam		
6	Feb 7	Movie: <i>Lagaan</i> or <i>Bombay</i>		
	Feb 9	South Asian Religions: Hinduism, Islam Reading: <u>Religions of South Asia</u> Pages 1-8, 15-27, 57-82, 201-246		
7	Feb 14	South Asian Religions Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Other religious traditions Reading: <u>Religions of South Asia</u> Pages 87-148, 151-195		
	Feb 16	South Asia in International Relations and World Politics <u>South Asia in World Politics</u> , Pages 11-48, 281-300		
8	Feb 21	Emerging role of South Asia in Global Economy Reading: <u>South Asia</u> , Pages 125-156 and <u>South Asia in World Politics</u> , Pages 257- 280		

	Feb 23	Conflicts and politics in South Asia Reading: <u>South Asia</u> , Pages 58-76, 77-86, 166-176 and <u>South Asia in World Politics</u> , Pages 71-88, 187-212		
9	Feb 28	South Asian Literature and Cinema in the Context of Globalization Reading: <u>Kite Runner</u> or <u>Namesake</u>		
	Mar 2	South Asian Literature and Cinema in the Context of Globalization Movie: <u>Kite Runner</u> or <u>Namesake</u>		
10	Mar 7	Remaining Reading and Discussion, Review, Questions.		
	March 9	Summary of Course Content Concluding Remarks Paper Due.		