Attention!

This is a representative syllabus. The syllabus for the course you are enrolled in will likely be different. Please refer to your instructor’s syllabus for more information on specific requirements for a given semester.
Interdisciplinary Approaches to South Asia

NELC 5241

Instructor
Instructor email:
Instructor’s office:
Office Hours:
Course website:
Instructor's Mailbox:

Course Description

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 research methods to study South Asian and 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.

Required texts


Suggested reading


Readings of interest for student final projects


**Where required texts are available**

The required texts can be bought online. Chapters from various books and journal articles will be made available on Canvas.

**Assignment format and schedule**

**Weekly summary of readings** 50% of total grade

Students will be required to write a summary for readings each week. The summaries should be 500-1000 words long and should present the main arguments of the reading in a cohesive manner. The goal of the summaries will be to ensure that students get the point of the readings and also develop their writing skills.

**Weekly discussion questions** 25% of total grade

I will teach this class like a seminar. This will mean we will not have lectures and class will be guided by student discussion questions. Every student will bring two questions per class period based on the readings for the day. The questions should provide grounds for a critique of the arguments that the reading is presenting and should pave ground for further discussion. Bring a typed copy of your questions to class every class period. The questions will be circulated among all students so everyone can respond to your questions.

**Final paper project** 25% of total grade

The final paper will be a two-part project involving an abstract submission and a final paper. The final paper should be 7-10 pages and should be a discussion of two-three themes from this class and how these themes connect to your own research projects.

- Abstract for final paper 5% of total grade due on 3/9
- Final paper 20% of final grade due on 4/28

**Grading scale**


**Attendance policy**
If you miss more than one in the course of the semester for any reasons other than medical or family emergencies (for which you can provide written proof), your grade will go down one letter.

Weekly schedule

**Topic: Understanding ethnography**

**Week 1**

Hammersley, Martyn and Paul Atkinson (2001). *Ethnography: Principles in Practice.* Chapter 1,2,3

**Week 2**


**Diaspora**

**Week 3, Week 4**

**Diaspora**

Prashad, Vijay (2007) *The Karma of Brown Folk*

**Week 5: Politics**


**Week 6-7 Family**

Required text: *No Aging in India*

**Week 8 Gender**


**Week 9 Gender**

**Week 10 Sexuality**

Required texts: *With Respect to Sex.* Chapters 1-3

**Week 11 Caste and class**


**Week 12: Religion**


**Week 13 Review**

**Week 14: The new economy and the environment**


**Week 15: From rural to urban: The face of new India**


Concluding remarks and tying loose ends together

**Week 16 Final project due**

*Will be posted on Canvas

**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/.

Assignment schedule

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