South Asian Studies

The diversity and shared histories of South Asia’s cultures, religions, languages, and nations are an important area of engagement in the world today. While India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and neighboring nation-states constitute a recognizable geographic region, the equally vital diasporic communities from South Asia and their globally dispersed networks extend our understanding of an old and yet changing South Asia. South Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary concentration in which students work in a specified chronological period (e.g. ancient, medieval, early modern, or contemporary), in a geographical area (e.g. Bangladesh, Bengal, Maharashtra, North India, Pakistan, South India), or in a particular discipline (e.g. anthropology, Hindi/Urdu, history, religion, or Sanskrit) but also take courses outside of their chosen area of emphasis in disciplines such as economics, literature, philosophy, political science, or theatre arts.

Course Requirements

All South Asian Studies concentrators must take and pass 10 courses as approved by their concentration advisor.

**HIST 1620 - Gandhi’s India: South Asia Before 1947** 1

Select at least one of the following courses in pre-modern history, 1 philosophy, religious studies and literature:

- **CLAS 0180** Indian Civilization through Its Literature
- **CLAS 0800** Religious and Philosophical Thought in Ancient India
- **CLAS 0820** Epics of India
- **CLAS 0990** Concepts of the Self in Classical Indian Literature
- **CLAS 1140** Classical Philosophy of India
- **RELS 0140** Religions of South Asia
- **RELS 0130** Religions of Classical India

Select at least one of the following social science course: 1

- **ANTH 1250** Film and Anthropology: Identity and Images of Indian Societies
- **ANTH 1321** Impact on Colonialism: Gender and Nationalism in India
- **ANTH 1131** Indian Issues in Anthropological Perspective
- **ANTH 2321** Coming to Terms with India: Anthropology of Colonialism and Nationalism
- **POLS 1280** Politics, Economy and Society in India

At least one course in the visual arts, modern literature, music, cinema, or theatre of South Asia such as:

- **HIAA 1410A** Topics in Islamic Art: Islamic Art and Architecture on the Indian Subcontinent
- **HNDI 1080** Advanced Urdu
- **MUSC 1933** Music of India
- **PRSN 1200** Iranian Cinema: Before and After the Islamic Revolution
- **RELS 0090B** Hindu and Christian Modes of Loving Devotion
- **RELX 0100** Introduction to Buddhism
- **RELX 0130** Religions of Classical India
- **RELX 0140** Religions of South Asia
- **RELX 0150** Islam Unveiled
- **RELX 0500** The Theory and Practice of Buddhist Meditation
- **RELX 0540** Buddhist Psychology
- **RELX 0610** Sacrifice and Society
- **RELX 0640** Dying To Be With God: Jihad, Past and Present
- **RELX 0910** Music, Drama and Religion in India
- **RELX 1520** Pilgrimage and Sacred Travel in the Lands of Islam
- **RELX 1530A** Methods and Problems in Islamic Studies: Narratives
- **RELX 1540** Monks, Mystics and Martyrs: Abrahamic Traditions Compared
- **SANS 0100** Elementary Sanskrit I
- **SANS 0200** Elementary Sanskrit II
- **SANS 0300** Sanskrit Epic Narrative
- **SANS 0400** Classical Sanskrit Story Literature
- **SANS 1020** Early Sanskrit Philosophy and Religion
- **SANS 1080** The Critical Episodes of the Mahabharata
- **SANS 1100** Vedic Sanskrit
- **SANS 1400** The Sanskrit Grammatical Tradition

**Five electives**

- **ANTH 0066K** International Perspectives of Women’s Agency and Society
- **ANTH 1131** Indian Issues in Anthropological Perspective
- **ANTH 1220** Comparative Sex Roles
- **ANTH 1250** Film and Anthropology: Identity and Images of Indian Societies
- **ANTH 2320** Ideology of Development

**An Honors Thesis or a Capstone Course taken in an appropriate Department.** 1

**ECON 0150** The Economic Analysis of Institutions

**HIAA 1410A** Topics in Islamic Art: Islamic Art and Architecture on the Indian Subcontinent

**HIST 2971A** Science in a Colonial Context

**Several courses in International Relations are potentially appropriate; check to see if the course allows for a South Asian focus**

- **HNDI 1000** Beginning Hindi or Urdu
- **HNDI 2000** Beginning Hindi or Urdu
- **HNDI 0300** Intermediate Hindi-Urdu
- **HNDI 0400** Intermediate Hindi-Urdu
- **HNDI 1080** Advanced Hindi-Urdu

**Several courses in Development Studies are potentially appropriate; check to see if the course allows for a South Asian focus**

- **CLAS 0800** Religious and Philosophical Thought in Ancient India
- **CLAS 0820** Epics of India
- **CLAS 0990** Concepts of the Self in Classical Indian Literature
- **CLAS 1140** Classical Philosophy of India
- **RELS 0140** Religions of South Asia
- **RELS 0130** Religions of Classical India
- **HIAA 1410A** Topics in Islamic Art: Islamic Art and Architecture on the Indian Subcontinent
- **HIST 2971A** Science in a Colonial Context

**Several courses in International Relations are potentially appropriate; check to see if the course allows for a South Asian focus**

- **HNDI 1000** Beginning Hindi or Urdu
- **HNDI 2000** Beginning Hindi or Urdu
- **HNDI 0300** Intermediate Hindi-Urdu
- **HNDI 0400** Intermediate Hindi-Urdu
- **HNDI 1080** Advanced Hindi-Urdu

**Several courses in Development Studies are potentially appropriate; check to see if the course allows for a South Asian focus**

- **CLAS 0800** Religious and Philosophical Thought in Ancient India
- **CLAS 0820** Epics of India
- **CLAS 0990** Concepts of the Self in Classical Indian Literature
- **CLAS 1140** Classical Philosophy of India
- **RELS 0140** Religions of South Asia
- **RELS 0130** Religions of Classical India

**An Honors Thesis or a Capstone Course taken in an appropriate Department.** 1

**Five electives**

- **ANTH 0066K** International Perspectives of Women’s Agency and Society
- **ANTH 1131** Indian Issues in Anthropological Perspective
- **ANTH 1220** Comparative Sex Roles
- **ANTH 1250** Film and Anthropology: Identity and Images of Indian Societies
- **ANTH 2320** Ideology of Development

**An Honors Thesis or a Capstone Course taken in an appropriate Department.** 1

**Five electives**

- **ANTH 0066K** International Perspectives of Women’s Agency and Society
- **ANTH 1131** Indian Issues in Anthropological Perspective
- **ANTH 1220** Comparative Sex Roles
- **ANTH 1250** Film and Anthropology: Identity and Images of Indian Societies
- **ANTH 2320** Ideology of Development

**An Honors Thesis or a Capstone Course taken in an appropriate Department.** 1

**Five electives**

- **ANTH 0066K** International Perspectives of Women’s Agency and Society
- **ANTH 1131** Indian Issues in Anthropological Perspective
- **ANTH 1220** Comparative Sex Roles
- **ANTH 1250** Film and Anthropology: Identity and Images of Indian Societies
- **ANTH 2320** Ideology of Development

**An Honors Thesis or a Capstone Course taken in an appropriate Department.** 1

**Five electives**

- **ANTH 0066K** International Perspectives of Women’s Agency and Society
- **ANTH 1131** Indian Issues in Anthropological Perspective
- **ANTH 1220** Comparative Sex Roles
- **ANTH 1250** Film and Anthropology: Identity and Images of Indian Societies
- **ANTH 2320** Ideology of Development

**An Honors Thesis or a Capstone Course taken in an appropriate Department.** 1

**Five electives**

- **ANTH 0066K** International Perspectives of Women’s Agency and Society
- **ANTH 1131** Indian Issues in Anthropological Perspective
- **ANTH 1220** Comparative Sex Roles
- **ANTH 1250** Film and Anthropology: Identity and Images of Indian Societies
- **ANTH 2320** Ideology of Development
Two of which may be language courses in Hindi/Urdu or Sanskrit taken in conjunction with the language requirement. This list is not exhaustive, as any class which allows the concentrator to complete a substantial final project on South Asia may be counted towards the concentration requirements. If course rotations or the introduction of new courses warrant, substitutions within these categories may be made with approval of the faculty advisor.

### Language Requirements

Proficiency in a South Asian language is required for the concentration. Students who are not native speakers of a South Asian language may prove proficiency by taking two years of Hindi/Urdu or Sanskrit at Brown, by successfully passing a course at the intermediate (4th semester) level at Brown or the approved equivalent at another institution, or by successfully passing a special examination administered by an approved faculty member. Two courses taken to fulfill the language requirement may be counted among the elective courses required for concentration.

### Study Abroad

All South Asian Studies concentrators are encouraged to take Hindi/Urdu and to participate in Brown in India, a junior-year study abroad program at St. Stephen’s College and Lady Sri Ram College in Delhi. Students can also opt to enroll in any other Brown approved study-abroad program in South Asia.

### Capstone Project

All concentrators other than honors concentrators will designate an upper-level course in the area of their primary focus as their capstone course. The student will take this course during the senior year and will produce as part of the written work for the course a substantial paper or annotated translation displaying the unique focus of his or her concentration.

### Honors

A South Asian Studies Concentration with Honors requires a high B or A average in courses taken for the concentration as well as an honors thesis in the department of the student’s main focus. Candidates for the honors program should apply to the South Asia Faculty Group through their advisor by the middle of their sixth semester.