SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Director of undergraduate studies: Sara Shneiderman, Rm. 126, 10 Sachem St., 436-4270, sara.shneiderman@yale.edu; www.yale.edu/macmillan/southasia

FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Professors Akhil Amar (Law School), Tim Barringer (History of Art), Vasudha Dalmia (Religious Studies), Nihal de Lanerolle (School of Medicine), Michael Dove (Anthropology, Forestry & Environmental Studies), Sara Suleri Goodyear (English), Phyllis Granoff (Religious Studies), Inderpal Grewal (Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies), Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan (Anthropology, Forestry & Environmental Studies), Shyam Sunder (School of Management), Steven Wilkinson (Political Science)

Associate Professors Karuna Mantena (Political Science), Kishwar Rizvi (History of Art), Sarah Weiss (Music)

Assistant Professors Ashwini Deo (Linguistics), Mayur Desai (Public Health), Zareena Grewal (Ethnicity, Race, & Migration), Shital Pravinchandra (English), Andrew Quintman (Religious Studies), Tamara Sears (History of Art), Sara Shneiderman (Anthropology), Tariq Thachil (Political Science), Mark Turin (Adjunct)

Senior Lecturers Carol Carpenter (Anthropology, Forestry & Environmental Studies), Geetanjali Singh Chanda (Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies), Koichi Shinohara (Religious Studies, East Asian Languages & Literatures)

Lecturers Harry Blair (Political Science), Hugh Flick, Jr. (Religious Studies), Elizabeth Hanson (Political Science), Stanley Scott (Music)

Senior Lecturer Seema Khurana

Lecturers David Brick, Swapna Sharma

The program in South Asian Studies combines the requirements of a discipline-based first major with significant course work in South Asian studies. South Asian Studies can be taken only as a second major. The major is intended to provide students with a broad understanding of the history, culture, and languages of South Asia, as well as the region’s current social, political, and economic conditions. Work in a discipline-based major coupled with a focus on South Asia prepares students for graduate study, employment in nongovernmental organizations, or business and professional careers in which an understanding of the region is essential.

The South Asian Studies major permits students to choose courses from a wide range of disciplines. Individual programs should have a balance between courses in the humanities and those in the social sciences. The proposed course of study must be approved each term by the director of undergraduate studies. Students should also identify an adviser from the South Asian Studies faculty in their area of specialization as early as possible.

Permission to complete two majors must be secured from the Committee on Honors and Academic Standing. Application forms are available from the residential college deans and must be submitted prior to the student’s final term.

Requirements of the major In addition to fulfilling the requirements of the primary major, a student choosing South Asian Studies as a second major must complete seven term courses in South Asian Studies numbered 200 or above. At least two of the seven courses must address premodern South Asia, and at least two should be seminars. Students may petition the director of undergraduate studies to include one relevant course from another department or program; approval may require additional course work on South Asian topics. Students must also complete the senior requirement and meet the major’s language requirement. A maximum of one course taken Credit/D/Fail may count toward the major.

Language requirement One South Asian language must be studied at the advanced level (courses designated L5). Students who matriculate with advanced proficiency in a South Asian language (excluding English), as demonstrated through testing, are encouraged to study Sanskrit, or to study a second modern language through Yale courses (Hindi, Bengali, Tamil) or through the Directed Independent Language Study program (Urdu, Nepali, Kannada, Sinhala, Punjabi). Students may request substitution of another appropriate language (e.g., Persian or Arabic) for the core language requirement, and they are encouraged to pursue intensive language study through courses or work abroad.

Senior requirement The senior requirement may be fulfilled by completion of a seminar that culminates in a senior essay. Alternatively, the requirement may be fulfilled by completion of a one-credit, two-semester senior research project in SAST 491, 492, or by completion of a one-term, one-credit directed study in SAST 486 that culminates in a senior essay. The senior essay should be a substantial paper with a maximum length of 8,000 words for one term and 10,500 words for two terms. The use of primary materials in the languages of the region is encouraged in senior essay projects. The director of undergraduate studies must approve senior essay plans early in the student’s senior year.

Courses in the Graduate School Graduate courses in South Asian Studies are open to qualified undergraduates. Course descriptions appear in the online Graduate School bulletin and are also available in the South Asian Studies program office. Permission of the instructor and of the director of graduate studies is required.
REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Prerequisites None

Number of courses 7 term courses (not incl senior req or lang req)

Distribution of courses 7 courses in South Asian Studies numbered 200 or above, 2 in premodern, 2 sems

Substitution permitted One relevant course in another dept, with DUS permission

Language requirement Study in a South Asian lang through L5 level

Senior requirement Senior essay in sem, or research project in SAST 491, 492, or senior essay in SAST 486

Language and Literature Courses

*BNGL 110a, Introductory Bengali I Sreemati Mukherjee
A comprehensive approach to learning all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. At the completion of the two-term sequence students are able to read and write in Bengali, and to converse in formal and informal situations. Course taught through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Cornell University. Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information. Credit only on completion of BNGL 120. 1½ Course cr

*BNGL 120b, Introductory Bengali II Sreemati Mukherjee
Continuation of BNGL 110. Prerequisite: BNGL 110 or equivalent. Course taught through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Cornell University. Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information. 1½ Course cr

*BNGL 130a, Intermediate Bengali I Sreemati Mukherjee and Minjin Hashbat
The first half of a two-term sequence designed to develop intermediate proficiency in Bengali. Review of major grammar topics. Emphasis on expanding vocabulary, developing effective reading strategies, and improving listening comprehension. Readings, discussion, and written work focus on cultural topics in the Bengali-speaking world. Prerequisite: BNGL 120 or equivalent. Course taught through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Cornell University. Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information. 1½ Course cr

*BNGL 140b, Intermediate Bengali II Sreemati Mukherjee
The second half of a two-term sequence designed to develop intermediate proficiency in Bengali. Review of major grammar topics. Emphasis on expanding vocabulary, developing effective reading strategies, and improving listening comprehension. Readings, discussion, and written work focus on cultural topics in the Bengali-speaking world. Prerequisite: BNGL 130 or equivalent. Course taught through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Cornell University. Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information. 1½ Course cr

*HNDI 110a, Elementary Hindi I Swapna Sharma and staff
An in-depth introduction to modern Hindi, including the Devanagari script. A combination of graded texts, written assignments, audiovisual material, and computer-based exercises provides cultural insights and increases proficiency in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Hindi. Emphasis on spontaneous self-expression in the language. No prior background in Hindi assumed. Credit only on completion of HNDI 120. 1½ Course cr

HNDI 120b, Elementary Hindi II Seema Khurana and staff
Continuation of HNDI 110. After HNDI 110 or equivalent. 1½ Course cr

HNDI 130a, Intermediate Hindi I Swapna Sharma and staff
The first half of a two-term sequence designed to develop proficiency in the four language skills. Extensive use of cultural documents including feature films, radio broadcasts, and literary and nonliterary texts to increase proficiency in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Hindi. Focus on cultural nuances and Hindi literary traditions. Emphasis on spontaneous self-expression in the language. After HNDI 120 or equivalent. 1½ Course cr

*HNDI 132a, Accelerated Hindi I Swapna Sharma
A fast-paced course designed for students who are able to understand basic conversational Hindi but who have minimal or no literacy skills. Introduction to the Devanagari script; development of listening and speaking skills; vocabulary enrichment; attention to sociocultural rules that affect language use. Students learn to read simple texts and to converse on a variety of everyday personal and social topics. 1½ Course cr

HNDI 140b, Intermediate Hindi II Seema Khurana and staff
Continuation of HNDI 130. After HNDI 130 or equivalent. 1½ Course cr

*HNDI 142b, Accelerated Hindi II Swapna Sharma
Continuation of HNDI 132. Development of increased proficiency in the four language skills. Focus on reading and higher language functions such as narration, description, and comparison. Reading strategies for parsing paragraph-length sentences in Hindi newspapers. Discussion of political, social, and cultural dimensions of Hindi culture as well as contemporary global issues. 1½ Course cr
HNDI 150a, Advanced Hindi  Seema Khurana
An advanced language course aimed at enabling students to engage in fluent discourse in Hindi and to achieve a comprehensive knowledge of formal grammar. Introduction to a variety of styles and levels of discourse and usage. Emphasis on the written language, with readings on general topics from newspapers, books, and magazines. Prerequisite: HNDI 140 or permission of instructor. 1.5

*HNDI 158b, Writing in Independence and Post-Independence  Seema Khurana
Development of language skills through selected readings in Hindi literature and the study of popular culture of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Focus on the works of Munshi Premchand, Mannoo Bhandhari, Mohan Rakesh, and Amrita Pritam. Debates on political, social, and cultural topics. 1.5

*HNDI 198a and b, Advanced Tutorial  Seema Khurana
For students with advanced Hindi language skills who wish to engage in concentrated reading and research on material not otherwise offered by the department. Work must be supervised by an adviser and must terminate in a term paper or the equivalent. Permission to enroll requires submission of a detailed project proposal and its approval by the language studies coordinator. Prerequisite: HNDI 150 or equivalent.

*SKRT 110a / LING 115a, Introductory Sanskrit I  David Brick
An introduction to Sanskrit language and grammar. Focus on learning to read and translate basic Sanskrit sentences in Devanagari script. No prior background in Sanskrit assumed. L1 1½ Course cr

SKRT 120b / LING 125b, Introductory Sanskrit II  David Brick
Continuation of SKRT 110. Focus on the basics of Sanskrit grammar; readings from classical Sanskrit texts written in Devanagari script. After SKRT 110. L2 1½ Course cr

SKRT 130a / LING 138a, Intermediate Sanskrit I  David Brick
The first half of a two-term sequence aimed at helping students develop the skills necessary to read texts written in Sanskrit. Readings include selections from the Hitopadesa, Kathasaritsagara, Mahabharata, and Bhagavadgita. After SKRT 120 or equivalent. 1.3 1½ Course cr

SKRT 140b / LING 148b, Intermediate Sanskrit II  David Brick
Continuation of SKRT 130, focusing on Sanskrit literature from the kavya genre. Readings include selections from the Jatakamala of Aryasura and the opening verses of Kalidasa’s Kumarasambhavam. After SKRT 130 or equivalent. L4 1½ Course cr

*TAML 110a, Introductory Tamil I  Staff
An in-depth introduction to modern Tamil, focusing on skills in comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing as well as on cultural understanding. Course work includes graded texts, written assignments, audiovisual material, and computer-based exercises. No prior background in Tamil assumed. Course taught through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Columbia University. Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information. Credit only on completion of TAML 120. L1 1½ Course cr

TAML 120b, Introductory Tamil II  Staff
Continuation of TAML 110. After TAML 110. Course taught through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Columbia University. Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information. L2 1½ Course cr

TAML 130a, Intermediate Tamil I  Staff
The first half of a two-term sequence designed to develop proficiency in comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing through the use of visual media, newspapers and magazines, modern fiction and poetry, and public communications such as pamphlets, advertisements, and government announcements. Prerequisite: TAML 120 or equivalent. Course taught through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Columbia University. Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information. L3 RP 1½ Course cr

*TAML 140b, Intermediate Tamil II  D. Sudanandha
The second half of a two-term sequence designed to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Focus on the communicative aspects of the language. Some attention to Tamil culture since the Sangam period. Prerequisite: TAML 130 or equivalent. Course taught through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Columbia University. Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information. L4 1½ Course cr

General Courses in South Asian Studies

*SAST 056b / EAST 013b / RLST 013b, The Dalai Lama  Andrew Quintman
The institution of the Dalai Lama and the individuals who have filled that role from fifteenth-century Tibet to twenty-first-century exile in India. Survey of the most important Dalai Lamas; regional histories of Buddhism; the Tibetan tradition of recognized reincarnations and the Buddhist philosophical principles that support it; activities of the current Dalai Lama as interpreted by Chinese government
media, Indian exile communities, and the modern West. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.

SAST 175a / RLST 105a, Religious Movements in Modern India  Vasudha Dalmia
Sacred texts and religious practices of India as they have been disseminated, reinterpreted, and enlisted in various political and cultural projects during the colonial and postindependence periods. Focus on Hindu traditions, with some attention to Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam. Readings include theological writings, doctrinal tracts, novels, anthropological and sociological analyses, poetry, autobiography, and historical overviews.  HU

SAST 219a / ANTH 276a, South Asian Social Worlds  Sara Shneiderman
Study of a series of texts that introduce anthropological and critical approaches to South Asia’s peoples and cultures while questioning the historical and political possibility of understanding such a diverse region.  WR, SO

SAST 221a / HIST 310aG, History of Modern South Asia  Asiya Alam
Survey of the Indian subcontinent’s history from colonial rule, through nationalist resistance, to postcolonial history. The establishment of British dominion; colonial transformation of Indian politics, society, economy, and culture; nationalism before and after Gandhi; the partition of India; and recent developments in South Asia.  HU

SAST 256b / HSAR 383b, Art of India, 300 B.C.–A.D. 1650  Tamara Sears
Introduction to the art and architectural history of the Indian subcontinent from the rise of the Mauryan Empire to the building of the Taj Mahal. The development of early Buddhist and Jain art and of Hindu temples and icons; the efflorescence of Islamic visual culture under the Mughal Empire.  HU

SAST 259b / MUSI 357b, Indian Music Theory and Practice  Stanley Scott
Introduction to the concepts and culture of music in South Asia from Vedic times to the present, with a focus on North Indian classical music. Discussion of history and theory is enriched by practical instruction and live performances. Topics include raga (melody), tala (meter), musical forms, improvisation, patronage, religion, and gender, with forays into folk music and film. No previous experience in Indian classical music required.  HU

SAST 260b / HSAR 143b / RLST 188b, Introduction to the History of Art: Buddhist Art and Architecture, 900 to 1600  Mimi Yiengprasawan
Buddhist art and architecture of East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Tibet from the tenth century to the early modern period. Emphasis on cross-regional engagements including the impact of Islam.  HU

SAST 265a / HSAR 142a / RLST 187a, Introduction to the History of Art: The Classical Buddhist World  Mimi Yiengprasawan
Buddhist art and architecture of India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and central Asia from earliest beginnings to the tenth century, and including Greco-Roman, Persian, and Islamic contact.  HU

*SAST 266a / ARCH 271a / HSAR 266a / HUMS 450a / MMES 126a, Introduction to Islamic Architecture  Kishwar Rizvi
Introduction to the architecture of the Islamic world from the seventh century to the present, encompassing regions of Asia, North Africa, and Europe. A variety of sources and media, from architecture to urbanism and from travelogues to paintings, are used in an attempt to understand the diversity and richness of Islamic architecture. Field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.  HU

SAST 267a / RLST 125a, Introduction to Buddhist Thought and Practice  Andrew Quintman
Significant aspects of Buddhism as practiced mainly in India and South Asia, including philosophy and ethics, monastic and ascetic life, meditation and ritual practices, and the material culture of Buddhist societies. The Mahayana tradition that emerged in the first century B.C.E.; later forms of esoteric Buddhism known as tantra; the development of modern Buddhism in Asia and its manifestation in the West. Readings from Buddhist texts in translation.  HU

SAST 271a / HIST 309a, History of Ancient India  David Brick
Introduction to Indian society and civilization from its earliest beginnings until c. 1000 C.E. Topics include politics, caste and class, commerce, religion, art and architecture, literature, and science.  HU

*SAST 310b / FILM 317b, Understanding Bollywood  Kedar Kulkarni
Critical introduction to popular cinema of South Asia, its history, culture, and politics. Topics include nationalism, partition, gender, secularism, development, globalization, and diaspora.  HU

*SAST 313b / ANTH 313b, Cultural Aspects of International Development  Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan and Sara Shneiderman
Critical analysis of development ideas and projects in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, with a focus on ethnographic research. Development and cultural diversity; social and economic development politics and practices; institutions that design, fund, and implement development, such as multilateral agencies, governments, and civil society organizations.  SO

*SAST 335a, Migration in the Indian Ocean Region  Rajashree Mazumder
Continuity and change in the Indian Ocean basin from the emergence of Islam in the seventh century C.E. to the intrusion of European powers and the subsequent emergence of the global economy and colonialism in the nineteenth century. Focus on the experiences of people whose lives were shaped by transoceanic networks, including merchants, itinerant pilgrims, soldiers, sailors, pirates, sex workers, and wage laborers.  HU
*SAST 342b / EP&E 425b / PLSC 181b, South Asia in World Politics  Elizabeth Hanson
Relations of the major countries of South Asia with each other and with the rest of the world; emphasis on India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. Identification of the various actors and interests that are fueling current conflicts in the region. Analysis of issues in world politics, including nation building, ethnic conflict, militant extremism, nuclear proliferation, and strategies of development.  SO

*SAST 343b / PLSC 348b, Indian Elections and the Media  Diya Devasher
Introduction to the dynamics of elections in India, including the foundations of democratic politics, the role of political elites, the sources of political differences, and the role of the media to inform and influence outcomes. How voters and politicians make decisions; the role of identity in elections; sources of news that different audiences receive.  SO

*SAST 360b, Introduction to Bhakti Literature  Swapna Sharma
Study of bhakti (devotional literature) in North India, beginning in the sixteenth century. Resistance to Brahmanical forms of social dominance; the role of linguistically based power; the development of vernacular languages and the national language of India.  HU

*SAST 362b / ENGL 347b / HUMS 274b / LITR 264b, South Asian Anglophone Literature  Shital Pravinchandra
Introduction to key works, concepts, and issues in twentieth-century South Asian writing in English. Focus on literature from and about India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. The status of English on the Indian subcontinent; the current popularity of South Asian Anglophone literature; the relation of South Asian literature written in English to literature written in other South Asian languages.  WR, HU

*SAST 363a / ANTH 317a / EAST 362a / HSAR 479a or b, Himalayan Collections at Yale  Mark Turin
Online tools and new digital media are used to explore links between four library and museum collections at Yale that are from and about the Himalayan region: Bubriski’s black-and-white photographs of Nepal; Buddhist scrolls and fabric temple banners; Christian missionary archives; documents on the political history of Nepal. Collective cataloguing of materials in the collections.  HU

*SAST 366b / RLST 183b, The Bhagavad Gita  Koichi Shinohara and Phyllis Granoff
Introduction to literary works that shaped the great civilizations of Asia. Focus on traditional literature from India, China, and Japan. Readings range from religious and philosophical texts to literature of the court, poetry, drama, and epics.  HU, Tr

*SAST 369bG / ANTH 355bG, Himalayan Languages and Cultures  Mark Turin
Exploration of social, linguistic, and political aspects of the Himalayan region. Issues include classifications of communities and their languages; census-taking and other state enumeration projects; the crisis of endangered oral cultures and speech forms; the creation and adoption of writing systems and the challenges of developing mother tongue literacy materials. Case studies are drawn from Bhutan, northern India, Nepal, and Tibet.  SO

*SAST 371a / ENGL 343a / ER&M 353a / HUMS 419a / LITR 268a, Postcolonial Studies  Shital Pravinchandra
Introduction to key writers, literary works, concepts, and issues in the field of postcolonial studies. Definitions of the term "postcolonial," including to whom it can be applied; the cultural, psychological, and political consequences of colonization; opinions of non-Western writers about current cultural and political climates and the historical processes that shaped them.  HU

*SAST 379a / LING 248aG, Indo-Aryan Languages  Ashwini Deo
Introduction to the Indo-Aryan language family, its linguistic context, and its evolution from the ancient period to the present. Focus on comparative morphosyntax and semantic phenomena, with some attention to issues of classification and contact.  SO

*SAST 423b / HIST 359Jb, Reinventing Gender in Modern South Asia  Asiya Alam
History and theory of debates surrounding issues of gender and sexuality in modern South Asia. Overview of theory that has shaped the field of women’s and gender studies; social reform in South Asia; nationalism and the politics of race and feminism under colonial rule; postcolonial challenges, including feminist questions on gender, sexuality, religion, and caste marginality.  HU

*SAST 458a / ER&M 328a / WGSS 328a, Popular Culture and Postcolonial India  Geetanjali Singh Chanda
A study of films and literature of South Asians living, working, and directing in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Questions of commercial populism, authenticity, and postcolonial identity.  WR

*SAST 462a / HSAR 477a / RLST 382a, Yoga in Art, Text, and Practice  Tamara Sears and Andrew Quintman
Critical investigation of texts, images, and the practice of yoga, focusing on Indian traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, as well as modern manifestations in the West. Themes include contemplative practices, bodily disciplines, ritual, narrative painting, architecture, and the role of yoga in tantra. Readings emphasize primary sources and theoretical frameworks.  HU

*SAST 463a / THST 391a, Indian Theater, 1850 to the Present  Kedar Kulkarni
Introduction to major movements and playwrights in modern Indian theater. Focus on post-independence drama and its forms that derive from classical Indian, folk, and other sources, both indigenous and foreign.  HU

*SAST 466b / HUMS 449b / RLST 190b, Narrative Space in Asian Religions  Phyllis Granoff and Koichi Shinohara
The many spaces of Asian religious practice, good and bad, real and imaginary, explored through readings from Indian, Chinese, and Japanese texts in translation.  HU
*SAST 467b / RLST 383b*, Biography in Asian Religions  
Andrew Quintman  
The significance of life writing in the religious traditions of Asia. Readings both from primary texts in translation and from theoretical works on biography and autobiography.  
HU

*SAST 486a or b, Directed Study*  
Sara Shneiderman  
A one-credit, single-term course on topics not covered in regular offerings. To apply for admission, a student should present a course description and syllabus to the director of undergraduate studies, along with written approval from the faculty member who will direct the study.

Senior Essay Course

*SAST 491a and SAST 492b, Senior Essay*  
Sara Shneiderman  
A yearlong research project completed under faculty supervision and resulting in a substantial paper. Credit for SAST 491 only on completion of SAST 492. ½ Course cr per term