SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES COUNCIL

The MacMillan Center
210 Luce Hall, 203.436.3517
http://southasia.macmillan.yale.edu

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Senior Lecturer Geetanjali Singh Chanda (Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies)

Lecturer Carol Carpenter (Forestry & Environmental Studies)

Senior Lectors Seema Khurana (Hindi), Swapna Sharma (Hindi)

Students with an interest in South Asian Studies should apply to one of the University’s degree-granting departments, such as Anthropology, History, Political Science, Economics, or Religious Studies. The South Asian Studies Council is part of the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies. It has been organized to provide guidance to graduate students who desire to use the resources of the departments of the University that offer South Asia-related courses.

The South Asian Studies Council aims to bring together faculty and students sharing an interest in South Asia, and it supplements the curriculum with seminars, conferences, and special lectures by scholars from Yale as well as visiting scholars. It provides information concerning grants, fellowships, research programs, and foreign study opportunities.

Language instruction is offered in Hindi and Sanskrit. Students planning to undertake field research or language study in South Asia may apply to the council for summer fellowship support.

For information and program materials, contact the South Asian Studies Council, Yale University, PO Box 208206, New Haven CT 06520-8206; or visit our website, http://southasia.macmillan.yale.edu.

COURSES

HNDI 510a, Elementary Hindi Staff
An in-depth introduction to modern Hindi, including the Devanagari script. Through a combination of graded texts, written assignments, audiovisual material, and computer-based exercises, the course provides cultural insights and increases proficiency in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Hindi. Emphasis placed on spontaneous self-expression in the language. No prior background in Hindi assumed.

HNDI 520b, Elementary Hindi II Staff
Continuation of HNDI 510.

HNDI 530a, Intermediate Hindi I Swapna Sharma and Seema Khurana
First half of a two-term sequence designed to develop proficiency in the four language skill areas. 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 various Hindi literary traditions. Emphasis on spontaneous self-expression in the language. Prerequisite: HNDI 520 or equivalent.

HNDI 532a, Accelerated Hindi I Swapna Sharma
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.

HNDI 540b, Intermediate Hindi II Seema Khurana and Swapna Sharma
Continuation of HNDI 530, focusing on further development of proficiency in the four language skill areas. Prerequisite: HNDI 530 or equivalent.
HNDI 542b, Accelerated Hindi II  Swapna Sharma
Continuation of HNDI 532. 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. Prerequisite: HNDI 532 or equivalent.

HNDI 550a, 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 540 or permission of instructor.

HNDI 598b, Advanced Tutorial  Swapna Sharma
For students with advanced Hindi language skills who wish to engage in concentrated reading and research on material not otherwise offered by the department. The work must be supervised by an adviser and must terminate in a term paper or its equivalent. Prerequisites: HNDI 540, and submission of a detailed project proposal and its approval by the language studies coordinator.

SAST 562a / RLST 567a, Readings in Pali Texts  Phyllis Granoff
In this course we read a selection of ritual texts from India's three classical religions, Buddhism, Jainism, and Hinduism. Prerequisite: a knowledge of Sanskrit.

SAST 639a, Islam in Modern South Asia  Naveena Naqvi
The partition of British India in 1947 produced the separate Muslim-majority and Hindu-majority states of Pakistan and India. This moment was the culmination of a long historical arc, in which religious identities were transformed and politicized under colonialism. The course examines this process, tracing the development of a spectrum of modern Muslim subjectivities from the advent of colonial rule to the present. Some of the questions addressed are: How did the history of Muslim sovereignty continue to inform colonial and nationalist self-definitions? How did Islamic institutions reform under colonialism and under what circumstances did Islamic revivalists resist colonial rule? What to what extent were these developments connected with or separate from processes in other parts of the British empire? In response to these questions, the first part of the course considers a range of variables, such as the influence of modernizing Muslim ideologues, the role of Christian missionaries, the introduction of the printing press, and the creation of modern madrasa schools. In later weeks, as we trace the emergence of electoral politics and the violent partition of India in the twentieth century, we address how contemporary South Asian Muslim identities intersected with other articulations of identity such as caste, gender, class, and political ideologies.

SAST 838b / HSAR 838b, Arts of the Contact Zone  Subhashini Kaligotla
Taking India and South Asia as the pivot of our explorations, this graduate seminar engages major scholarly approaches to the heterogeneous arts and cultures of the contact zone, a cultural sphere constituted by recourse to a plurality of visual styles, linguistic universes, religious systems, and political languages. We unpack, theoretically and methodologically, concepts such as cosmopolitanism, hybridity, transregionalism, mobility, globalism, and the intercultural. Our explorations encompass the visual productions of the Mauryan court, ancient Gandhara, the Delhi and Deccan sultanates, and both Sanskrit and Persian cosmopolises in South Asia. Weekly readings and discussions take a critical, in-depth look at one work that has had a far-reaching impact on writing the entangled histories of these contact zones. We read scholars writing from within the discipline of art and architectural history, and those grounded in history, the history of religion, literary studies, landscape studies, and subaltern and postcolonial studies. Our goal is to evaluate the distinctive contribution of each work by examining its theoretical premises and choices, its methods and evidence, the structure of its arguments, as well as its limitations and blind spots. Students are expected to lead at least one discussion and submit a final research paper.

SKRT 510a, Introductory Sanskrit I  Aleksandar Uskokov
An introduction to Sanskrit language and grammar. Focus on learning to read and translate basic Sanskrit sentences in the Indian Devanagari script. No prior background in Sanskrit assumed. Credit only on completion of SKRT 520/LING 525.

SKRT 520b, Introductory Sanskrit II  Aleksandar Uskokov
Continuation of SKRT 510/LING 515. Focus on the basics of Sanskrit grammar; readings from classical Sanskrit texts written in the Indian Devanagari script. Prerequisite: SKRT 510/LING 515.

SKRT 530a, Intermediate Sanskrit I  Aleksandar Uskokov
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 Bhagavad Gita. Prerequisite: SKRT 520 or equivalent.

SKRT 540b / LING 548b, Intermediate Sanskrit II  Aleksandar Uskokov
Continuation of LING 538, focusing on Sanskrit literature from the kavya genre. Readings include selections from the Jatakamala of Aryasura and the opening verses of Kalidasa's Kamarasambhava. Prerequisite: LING 538/SKRT 530 or equivalent.

SKRT 550b, Advanced Sanskrit: Readings in Indian Philosophy and Aesthetics  Aleksandar Uskokov
This advanced language course introduces the jargon of the philosophical disciplines (theory of knowledge, metaphysics, philosophy of mind and language, philosophical theology, hermeneutics) and aesthetics in the several systems of learning in ancient and classical India, across the traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. Additionally, the course introduces topics of philosophical significance in foundational texts such as the Upaniṣads, portions of the Mahābhārata and the Purāṇas, and the Buddhist sūtra literature. Special attention is given to matters of style, scholastic techniques, and advanced morphology and syntax. The course thus combines advanced
language instruction with learning intellectual and cultural content, and it facilitates training in primary research in one of the classical languages of South Asia. Prerequisite: SKRT 540.