SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES COUNCIL

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

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Senior Lecturer
Carol Carpenter (School of the Environment)

Senior Lecturer
Swapna Sharma (Hindi)

Lector
Aleksandar Uskokov (Sanskrit)

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
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 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  Swapna Sharma
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 598a or b, 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 670a / RLST 646a, Indian Philosophy in Sanskrit Literature  Aleksandar Uskokov
In this course we focus on issues of philosophical significance in Sanskrit literature of “nonstandard” philosophical genres, i.e., other than the treatise and the commentary. Specifically we read from canonical Hindu texts such as the Upaniṣads, Mahābhārata, Rāmāyaṇa, Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Bhagavad-gītā, and Yogavāsiṣṭha; the classical genres of drama and praise poetry; and hagiographical literature, all in English translation. Attention is paid not only to substance but also to form. The selection of philosophical problems includes philosophy of mind and personal identity; allegory; the ethics of nonviolence; philosophy, politics, and religious pluralism; the highest good; theology; and philosophical debate.

SAST 839a / HIST 904a, Writing Postcolonial Histories of South Asia: Decolonization, Democracy, and Development  Rohit De
Until recently, scholarly histories of South Asia concluded with independence; the period after was presented as the province of political scientists and economists. This was both the result of changing archival practices of postcolonial states as well as the belief, nurtured by the state, that history as a progressive narrative ended with independence. This seminar engages with the newly emerging work to understand models, theoretical questions, and archival methods to study postcolonial India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Postcolonial here refers not only to the period after the end of colonialism, but also “the condition produced by being worked over by colonialism.” It focuses on how after independence, anti-colonial movements sought to overcome colonial legacies, built multietnic polities, constructed and developed national economies, and took their place and reshaped the international stage. The topics and events covered — be they histories of partition, economic planning, mass violence, state science, universal franchise, non-alignment, urban planning, reproductive health — are in dialogue with histories of decolonization and postcolonial state building across the Global South. The course focuses on identifying new archives and techniques of reading, ranging from court litigation to expert commissions, oral histories, diplomatic records, and radio and cinema.

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 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 560a, Advanced Sanskrit: Readings in Poetry and Drama  Aleksandar Uskokov
The purpose of this course is to introduce the jargon of classical Sanskrit literature, specifically the interrelated genres of mahā-kāvya or court epic; nāṭaka or drama; and hagiography or carita. Special attention is given to matters of style and advanced morphology and syntax. Additionally, the course introduces scholastic techniques of text interpretation. Finally, the course looks at the phenomenon of retelling stories from Vedas, the epics, or the Buddhist sūtras in classical Sanskrit literature, thus combining advanced language instruction with learning cultural content. Prerequisites: previous terms of Sanskrit to L4 or equivalent.