This course focuses on the political and economic underpinnings and implications of gender inequality in South Asia. We draw on evidence from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India to guide our theoretical and empirical inquiry into the following broad questions: What is gender, and what approaches do social scientists use to study gender inequality? How does gender inequality manifest in different social, economic, and political spheres e.g. the household, the labor market, the electorate, the government? What are the cultural and structural drivers of gender inequality? How effective are different approaches to tackling gender inequality in South Asia? Previous course work in statistical data analysis is helpful, but not required.
* SAST 366b / RLST 183b, The Bhagavad Gita  Staff
An examination of the Bhagavad Gita in its historical and religious context. Exploration of the major interpretations of this important religious text. All readings in translation.  
HU

* SAST 384b / ARCH 324b / URBN 324b, The City Before and After the Tubewell  Anthony Acciavatti
What do such disparate cities as New Delhi, Jakarta, Mexico City, and Phoenix all have in common? In short, each city relies on a fantastic technology that few people know anything about but has transformed the shape and life of cities and their hinterlands: the tubewell. Technologies for drawing up groundwater, tubewells are used in places where municipal water supply is non-existent, unreliable, or often polluted. A minor technology with a global reach, the tubewell is to the city what the elevator was to the skyscraper in the booming American metropolis of the early twentieth century. In this course we look at how tubewells and other decentralized technologies have radically transformed urban and agricultural spaces across the globe since the nineteenth century to the present. We watch how people exult before these technologies; we witness how governments and philanthropies as well as farmers and townspeople appropriate them for radically different ends. And we consider why.  
HU

* SAST 385a / ER&M 336a, South Asians in America  Sasha Sabherwal
The South Asian American diaspora is a heterogeneous group comprising multiple nationalities, religious practices, castes, classes, languages, and genders. This diaspora includes migrants from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka, as well as communities of North America, the U.K., the Caribbean, and East Africa. In this seminar, we chronicle the complex relationships of South Asians in the United States and the shifting understandings of the category “South Asian American.” Taking up the changing and contested meanings of the diaspora allows us to think through questions of identity, race, gender, caste, class, religion, and citizenship. We consider questions such as: how do South Asians reproduce and resist constructions of the model minority? How can we think about the relationship of South Asians in relation to a larger history of Asian American racialization, anti-blackness, and settler colonialism? How do we challenge the constrictions of global terror, especially post-9/11? What are hegemonic cultural representations of South Asian Americans across Hollywood and Bollywood? And how can we move beyond these representations to theorize South Asian Americans transnationally? The course explores these questions through historical, ethnographic, cultural, and transnational feminist approaches to Asian American Studies.  
HU

* SAST 459b / RLST 182b, Buddhist Traditions of Mind and Meditation  Eric Greene
Buddhist meditation practices examined in the context of traditional theories of mind, perception, and cognition. Readings both from Buddhist canonical works and from secondary scholarship on cognitive science and ritual practice. Recommended preparation: a course in Asian religions.  
HU

* SAST 469a / HSAR 414a, Visual Storytelling in South Asia  Subhashini Kaligotla
This seminar explores the polyglot variety of visual narration in South Asia. We examine the lives of exemplary individuals like the Buddha, the epic story of Rama, and royal biography and autobiography. We consider stories told through stone, in the medium of paint, and in print, film, graphic books, and contemporary media. We experience story telling in sumptuous courtly settings and in temples, monasteries, and other sacred spaces. Weekly readings and discussions analyze the handling of narrative ambiguity and absence, double meaning and punning, the treatment of space and place, representations of sex, desire, and love, and the visual construction of political persona, power, and nation. The course is ultimately interested in how South Asian narratives unsettle and expand the notion of representation.
Prerequisite: one introductory course in Art History.  
HU

* SAST 486a or b, Directed Study  Staff
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.

* SAST 491a and SAST 492b, Senior Essay  Staff
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