

SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

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The program in South Asian Studies combines the requirements of a discipline-based first major with significant coursework 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.

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 (DUS) 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.

Language requirement One South Asian language must be studied at the advanced level (L5). Yale offers L5 instruction in Hindi and Sanskrit. Students may request the 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. For South Asian languages beyond Hindi and Sanskrit, proficiency can be demonstrated through testing. Please contact the DUS if this is the route you would like to take. Students who fulfill the major requirement through the successful completion of an L5 language exam must take an additional term course for a total of eight term courses. While the exploration of a second language is encouraged, an elective approved by the DUS will fulfill the requirement.

Credit/D/Fail A maximum of one course taken Credit/D/Fail may count toward the major.

SENIOR REQUIREMENT

Students are held to the senior requirements that were in place when they declared their major. However, with approval from the director of undergraduate studies (DUS), the following requirements, updated for the academic year 2024-2025, may be fulfilled by students who declared the major in a prior term.

The senior requirement may be fulfilled by the completion of a seminar that culminates in a senior essay. Alternatively, the requirement may be fulfilled by completion of a one-credit, one-term senior essay undertaken in consultation with a faculty advisor in SAST 491. The senior essay can be written in either the fall or spring of the student's senior year. The senior essay should be a substantial paper with a maximum length of

8,000-10,000 words. The use of primary materials in the languages of the region is encouraged in senior essay projects.

The DUS must approve senior requirement plans early in the student's senior year.

ADVISING

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 DUS. Students should also identify an adviser from the South Asian Studies faculty in their area of specialization as early as possible.

Two majors 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.

Courses in the Graduate School Graduate courses in South Asian Studies are open to qualified undergraduates. Course descriptions appear in the Graduate School online 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.

STUDY ABROAD

Up to three course credits from approved study abroad programs may be applied toward the requirements of the major, with permission of the DUS.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

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 seminars

Substitution permitted One relevant course in another dept, and/or up to 3 study abroad credits with DUS permission

Language requirement South Asian lang through L5 level

Senior requirement Senior essay in seminar, or research project in SAST 491