



University of North Texas
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Anthropology
ANTH 3700.810/820
Peoples and Cultures of South Asia

Instructor

Dr. Andrew Nelson
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Office hours: Tuesdays 9-11am

Instructional Assistants

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**Course Description:**

This course covers the cultural region of South Asia, often defined as including the countries of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, but occasionally also includes Afghanistan, Tibet, and Burma, not to mention the large South Asian diaspora around the world. Through a study of the region's geography and history, we will start by challenging a-historical representations of South Asia as timeless, excessively spiritual, poor and conflict-ridden. Then we will shift to thinking about South Asia less as a place and more as a symbol referencing particular responses to universal questions: what does it mean to be human? How should society be organized? What causes conflict? Finally, we will conclude by asking what a South Asian perspective might teach us about life in North America. In addition

to reading academic texts, students will gain an appreciation for the region through films, literary fiction, and blogs.

Pre-requisites: There are no pre-requisites for the course

Course Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Critique how the North Atlantic (North America, Europe) has imagined South Asia
2. Identify the role of history and geography in producing South Asia as a region
3. Apply cultural concepts and theories inspired by South Asian societies
4. Challenge the many myths about South Asian societies and conflicts
5. Identify and analyze connections between South Asia and North America

Required Materials

Mines, D. & S. Lamb, eds. 2010. *Everyday Life in South Asia: 2nd Edition*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Singh, Deepak. 2017. *How May I Help You? An Immigrant's Journey from MBA to Minimum Wage*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Technical Support

Student Helpdesk:

UIT Helpdesk
Sage Hall 130
940-565-2324
helpdesk@unt.edu

Technical Skill Requirements

To be successful in this class, students will need to be able to: download and upload files, send and receive emails and navigate Canvas.

Netiquette

Virtual Classroom Citizenship

The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper *netiquette* when interacting with class members and the professor.

Course Requirements

Graded Work	Percent of Final Grade	What each submission contributes to final grade
Syllabus Quiz & Self-Introduction	3	1.5
9 Discussions	27	3
3 Assignments	30	10
4 Quizzes	40	10

Student Expectations

1. Lectures/Reading: For every lesson, listen to the lecture(s) and complete the reading.
2. Introductory Quiz and Discussion: During the first week of class, complete the quiz covering the syllabus and submit a discussion post introducing her/himself.
3. Activities: Complete four online interactive “activities”. Although ungraded, the corresponding discussions and papers will be based on these activities.
4. Discussions: Complete 9 discussions. Each discussion will be worth five points and consist of three submissions: the original post (3 pts.) and two responses (1 pt. each).
5. Papers: Write and submit three papers each accounting toward 10% of the final grade. Submit as a word document and upload to Canvas.
6. Quizzes: Complete 4 quizzes each accounting for 10% of final grade. Each quiz will consist of 15-20 multiple choice, multiple answer, T/F, and matching questions. Students will be given 50 minutes to complete them, and will be allowed to make two attempts of which the final score will be the average.

Grading

All grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D

59-under F

Policies

COURSE POLICIES

1. Withdrawal: If you are unable to complete this course you must officially withdraw by the University-designated date (for a “W” with instructor approval). Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure that YOU must initiate. **I cannot do it for you.** If you simply stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an “F.”

2. Submitting Course Work: No coursework will be accepted via email. Late work will be accepted only if accompanied by a note from a medical professional. No other exceptions will be considered. Extensions will be considered if, and only if, the student requests them at least 24 hours before the due date.

* Please note that the Student Health Center offers basic consultations free of charge to all students regardless of insurance status.

3. Course Communication: I expect you to check your UNT email on a regular basis as this will be the only format for all course communication outside of the classroom. I require 24 hours to respond to any emails sent between Monday and Friday. Over the weekends and on holidays I require 48 hours to respond. Please include the name of the course you are taking with me in the body of your email. If you email me with a question that the syllabus answers, I will not reply to you. If you are writing an email from a mobile device, please remember to use a formal tone (salutations, full sentences, correct spelling and punctuation, signature).

4. Extra Credit: Students will have the following opportunities to gain extra credit:

1. EC Films: There will be seven different films that students can watch for extra credit. If students watch the film, answer and submit a short (100 words) response to a question that relates the film to course lessons, they will receive 1% extra credit added to their final grade. Students will be responsible for locating and screening each film on their own time. Response papers will not be accepted after the due date.
2. If more than 67% of the class completes the end-of-the-year SPOT evaluation, each student will receive 1% extra credit point added to their final grade.
3. Events/Lectures: Occasionally, there will be events and lectures on the UNT campus or in the greater DFW area relevant to the course. The

professor will send announcements notifying you of any such opportunities. If you attend and write a summary of the event, you may receive 1% extra credit. If you identify an event that you would like to attend/write about for extra credit, you must seek the Professor's permission over email before the event happens.

5. Academic Honesty Policy

The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. Students suspected of any of these will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic "F" in the course. For information on the University's policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/academic-integrity>

6. ADA Policy

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323).

7. Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at <http://www.ecfr.gov/>. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study

requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Course Schedule

D = Discussion

A = Activity

Q = Quiz

P = Paper

ELSA = Everyday Life in South Asia (textbook)

Lesson/Goals	Dates	Non-Graded Requirements	Graded Work
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<p>1: What is South Asia?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify one example of cultural appropriation (D1) - Discuss how ethnocentrism misrepresents South Asia (D1) 	<p>Jan 14 - 20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - View introduction film - Read Sen: Indian Tradition and the Western Imagination - Read Mannur & Sahni: Indo Chic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Syllabus Quiz (due 1-20) - Introduce Self (due 1-20) - Discussion #1: South Asia in the American Imagination (due 1-20) - EC Film 1: <i>Slumdog Millionaire</i> (due 1/20)
<p>2: Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Locate major geographic features of South Asia (A1/Q1) - Recognize the geographic & social diversity of South Asia (A1/Q1) 	<p>Jan 21 - 27</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen to Lesson 2 Lecture - Read Schmidt: chs. 1-3 - Read Visweswaran: Pp. 1-10 - Do Map Activity 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz #1: Geography (due 1-27)
<p>3: Pre-colonial History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recall cultural contribution of South Asia's civilizations and empires (Q2) - Compare the major religions of South Asia (A2/Q2) - Articulate the historical context of one South Asian religion (D2) 	<p>Jan 28 - Feb 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen to Lesson 3 Lecture - Listen to Dr. George James Lecture - Read Schmidt: chs. 4-5, 8-10, 16-17, 21-22, 54 - Do religion comparison Activity 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion #2: Historicizing Religion (due 2-3)
<p>4: Colonial History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify major causes and consequences of British colonialism (Q2) 	<p>Feb 4 - 10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen to Lesson 4 Lecture - Listen to Dr. Kate Imy Lecture - Read Schmidt: chs. 25-26, 32, 35-37 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion #3: Becoming Indian (due 2-10) - EC film 2: <i>Lagaan</i> (due 2-10)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role-play political life in colonial India (A3) - Discuss how colonial rule produced a national identity (D3) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do Nationalism Activity 3 	
<p>5: Post-Colonial History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connect colonial history to post-colonial era (Q2) - Recall key players, events and politics of post-colonial era (Q2) - Recognize the influence of US foreign policy in contemporary South Asia (Q2) 	Feb 11 - 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen to Lesson 5 Lecture - Read Schmidt, chs. 38-43, 63-69 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz #2: History (due 2-17) - EC film 3: <i>Midnight's Children</i> (due 2-17)
<p>6: Personhood & Kinship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recall theories and concepts of personhood (Q3) - Compare/contrast personhood in South Asia with your own cultural context (D4/P1) 	Feb 18 - 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen to Lesson 6 Lecture - Read ELSA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Part 1 Introduction * Wadley: ch. 1 * Lamb: ch. 5 - Read Mines: Conceptualizing the Person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion #4: Comparing Aging (due 2-24) - EC film 4: <i>Akhon Dekhi</i> (due 2-24)
<p>7: Gender & Marriage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recall theories and concepts of gender/marriage (Q3) - Compare/contrast gender/marriage in South Asia with your own cultural context (D5/P1) 	Feb 25 - Mar 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen to Lesson 7 Lecture - Read ELSA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Part 2 Introduction * Jeffery & Jeffery: ch. 2 * Nanda: ch. 9 * Reddy: ch. 10 * Kapur: ch. 4 * Gamburd: ch. 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion #5: Comparing Patriarchies (due 3-3) - EC film 5: <i>Monsoon Wedding</i> (due 3-3)
<p>8: Religion</p>	Mar 4 - 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen to Lesson 8 Lecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper #1: Reflexivity Paper (due 3-10)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recall theories and concepts of religion (Q3) - Discuss how religion is used to discriminate (D6) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen to Dr. Waquar Ahmed Lecture - Read ELSA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Part 4 Introduction * Mines: ch. 17 * Marriott: ch. 18 * Marsden: ch. 20 - Read Khan: Islam and Pious Sociality - Read Ghassem-Farchandi: Religious Synthesis - Read Schmalz: Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion #6: Islamophobia & Politicization of Religion (due 3-24) - EC film 6: <i>Bajrangi Bhaijaan</i> (due 3-24)
<p>9: Caste & Class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recall theories and concepts of caste/class (Q3) - Use theories of caste/class in role play (A4) - Discuss how caste and class overlap in practice (D7) 	<p>Mar 25 – Mar 31</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen to Lesson 9 Lecture - Read ELSA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Part 3 Introduction * ch. 11 * Dickey: ch. 15 - Read Liechty: Carnal Economies - Do caste/class Activity 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion #7: Caste/Class (due 3-31)
<p>10: Communalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recall causes and conditions of South Asian conflicts (Q3) - Provide historical-political-social context of conflict (P2) - Articulate how ethnicity, religion and nationalism are manipulated by politics (P2) 	<p>Apr 1 - 14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen to Lesson 10 Lecture - Read ELSA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Part 5 Introduction - Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (India) Shani: Politics of Communalism and Caste (Nepal) Sijapati 2013 (Bangladesh) Chakma 2010 (Sri Lanka) Thiranagama ch. (Pakistan) Wright 1991 (Bhutan) Evans 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz #3: Society (due 4-7) - Paper #2: Challenging Myths of Conflicts (due 4-14)
<p>11: Global South Asia</p>	<p>Apr 15 – May 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen to Lesson 11 Lecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion #8: Imperial Legacies (due 4-21)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recall history and concepts of South Asian migration (Q4) - Identify imperial legacies in contemporary South Asia (D8) - Identify and analyze connections between South Asia and North America (D9/P3) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend Imperial Legacies of 1919 Conference (April 18-20) - Listen to Dr. Donahue-Singh Lecture - Read Singh: <i>How May I Help You?</i> - Read Schmidt: ch. 59 - Read Tanaki: Tide of the Turbans - Read ELSA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Part 6 Introduction * Radhakrishnan: ch. 33 * Narayan: ch. 34 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion #9: South Asia in North America (due 4-28) - Paper #3: Choice of Literary, ethnographic, or research papers on South Asia in North America (due 5-3) - EC film 7: <i>The Namesake</i> (due 5-3)
Finals	May 4 – 10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz #4: Global South Asia (due 5-7) <p>Extensions must be requested BEFORE deadline</p>