ANTH 3700: South Asia
Spring 2016

Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9-9:50
Place: BLB 005

Instructor: Andrew Nelson
Office: 330N Chilton Hall
Office Hours: Mondays 10-11; or by appointment
E-Mail: andrew.nelson@unt.edu

Course I.A.: David McRae
E-mail: DavidMcrae@my.unt.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-3pm; or by appointment
Office: 308D Chilton Hall

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 South Asian diaspora around the world. We will start with a geographical and historical understanding of the region to contextualize it within global history and politics. Then we will shift to thinking about South Asia less as a place and more as a symbol of particular answers to questions that all of humanity ask, such as: what does it mean to be a person? How to resolve conflicts of social difference? And, how to belong in a de-territorialized global world? In addition to reading academic texts, students will gain an appreciation for the region through films, literary fiction, and blogs.
**Course Objectives**

- Familiarize students with the geography, history and society of South Asia
- Think critically about popular conceptions of South Asian cultures in the Western imagination
- Use South Asian notions of personhood and kinship to think reflexively about one’s one cultural practices
- Question the boundaries that separate religions and national identities in South Asia
- Recognize the global spread of South Asian identities and practices in the contemporary world

**Required Materials**

1. 6 months of access to Learning Catalytics. $12. https://learningcatalytics.com/users/sign_up
4. Elective: pick one of the following five books depending on Unit 3 Group
   e. Roy, Beth (1994) *Some Trouble with Cows*, University of California Press.
5. All other readings can be downloaded from the course’s Learn webpage under the tab “Readings.”

**Course Requirements**

I. **Pop Quizzes**
   You will be expected to do all readings, attend every class and engage in class discussion. There will be occasional ‘random’ quizzes that assess your understanding of readings and class lessons. Such quizzes will occur at the beginning of class periods and last 5-10 minutes. You must have access to Learning Catalytics to take the quiz. If you were granted an excused absence for a quiz class, you will be given a no grade (0/0). The quizzes will account for 10% of your final grade

II. **Geography and History Exams**
This will be two exams at the start of this course that cover South Asia’s geography and history. Geography Exam (10%) on January 25th; History Exam (20%) on February 26th. Only students with excused absences will be able to retake exams.

**III. Short Papers**

There will be two short papers due. Each will be worth 15% of your final grade. Late papers will only be accepted if accompanied with a doctor’s note.

**IV. Borderline Presentations**

The class will be split into five groups, and each group will give 20-minute presentations (approximately 2 minutes of talking per person) on the conflicts and resolutions of particular ‘borderline’ areas in South Asia: Ladakh, rural Bangladesh, Nepal-India border, Karachi, and north Sri Lanka. Each group member will have a particular theme to research/present and will be graded on an individual basis. Worth 15% of final grade.

**V. South Asia in DFW Globalization Blog**

After researching one space of South Asian culture in the DFW metroplex, you will create a blog with text and images. It will count towards 15% of your final grade.

**Grade Components**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflexive Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Borderline Presentations</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Globalization Blog</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
All grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59-under</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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. **Acceptable Student Behavior**: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu.

In this classroom, “acceptable student behavior” specifically means:

- **A. No cell phone use unless advised** (during learning catalytics). I will ask you to leave the classroom if I see you using your phone.

- **B. Maintain one classroom conversation.** Sometimes topics in anthropology classes can get socially controversial and emotionally exciting, but please contribute only to the central conversation.

- **C. Always be respectful of other students’ thoughts, opinions, and perspectives.**

- **D. Do not come to class late.** If you arrive more than 5 minutes after the start of class (9:05), you will be considered absent.
3. 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. If you are occupied on the due date, you can submit the work early.

4. Test/Quiz Policy: There will be two exams and multiple quizzes in this course that will assess knowledge of course material. If you do the readings and attend class, you should have no problem earning an A on these assessments. With an excused absence (doctor’s note) a student will receive a no grade on quizzes, and will be able to retake exams.

Mark your calendar:

Geography Test: January 25th  
History Test: February 26th  

4. Academic Misconduct: Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, sabotage and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University Policy and procedures. For information on the University’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, [http://www.unt.edu/csrr/](http://www.unt.edu/csrr/).

5. ADA: The Anthropology Department does not discriminate based on an individual’s disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our program provides academic adjustments or help to individuals with disabilities, and attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements. Please see me if you have a documented disability so that appropriate arrangements can be made to help you get the most out of this class.

6. Extra Credit: There might be occasional opportunities for extra credit (films, lectures or South Asia related events). If over 67% of the class submits the SPOT (evaluations), every student will receive 1% boost on final grade.

7. 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).

8. Personal technology use in the classroom: During the class, I expect students to use phones only when asked (for learning catalytics). Computer usage is only permitted for note-taking.
# Course Schedule of Readings, Viewings, and Assignments

## Unit One: Real & Imagined South Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Graded Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>What is South Asia?</td>
<td>Singh: Personal Space; Gandhi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>South Asia Geography</td>
<td>Mann: 1-19, Visweswaran: 1-10</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>Imagined South Asia</td>
<td>BB: Sen, Dholia, Rao (Thakoore optional)</td>
<td>BB: Geography Exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>Slumdog Imaginary</td>
<td><em>Slumdog Millionaire</em></td>
<td>BB: NPR, Jack, Bollywood clips</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>The Darkness</td>
<td>Adiga: 1-78</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Democracy, Indian style</td>
<td>Adiga: 79-95</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>Adiga: 97-189</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>New India (flipped class)</td>
<td>Adiga: 191-276</td>
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## Unit Two: History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Graded Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>Indus Valley Civilization</td>
<td>BB: <em>Empire of Spirit</em> (4:00-21:00)</td>
<td>BB: Timeline, Intro to Indus, Slide Show, Mohenjo-Dara</td>
<td>Media Paper Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>The Mughals &amp; EIC</td>
<td>BB: <em>Empire of Spirit</em> (21:00-43:45)</td>
<td>Mann: 20-51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Graded Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mann: 137-172</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>British Raj</td>
<td>BB: <em>Empire of Spirit</em> 43:45-end</td>
<td>Mann: 90-105</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 17</td>
<td>Resistance (flipped class)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mann: 55-80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>Industrialization &amp; Urbanization</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mann: 172-74; 272-283; 290-304; 346-352</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Independence &amp; Partition</td>
<td><em>Midnight’s Children</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Post-Colonial States</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mann: 105-133; 174-180; 304-310</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>Class Cancelled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>History Exam</td>
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</table>

**Unit Three: Persons, Kinship, Gender and Marriage**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Graded Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 29</td>
<td>Family I</td>
<td><em>Akhon Dekhi</em></td>
<td>BB: Wadley, Singh (3 blogs), Parajuly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Family II</td>
<td></td>
<td>BB: Jeffery &amp; Jeffery, Lamb</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td><em>Great Indian Marriage Bazaar</em></td>
<td>BB: Nanda, Akhter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Modern Marriage &amp; Romance</td>
<td><em>Monsoon Wedding</em></td>
<td>BB: Abraham, Kapur, Singh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td>BB: Gamburd, Nanda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Caste &amp; Class (flipped class)</td>
<td></td>
<td>BB: Mines &amp; Lamb, Parajuly</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Have a great Spring Break!

Unit Four: The Border Lines of Religion, Ethnicity and Nationalism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>BB:</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Hindu Traditions</td>
<td>Michaels</td>
<td>Reflexive Paper due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>Sihle</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Islam and Christianity</td>
<td>Hyder, PBS, Thaekaekara</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Ladakh (Islam, Buddhism)</td>
<td>Bajrangi Bhaijaan</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td><strong>Class Cancelled</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td><strong>Virtual Class:</strong> Rural Bangladesh (Islam/Hinduism)</td>
<td>Roy, ch. 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Karachi, Pakistan (Islam)</td>
<td>Ring, 1-26</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Nepal/India (ethnicity and Buddhism/Hinduism)</td>
<td>Shneiderman, ch. 1, 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Sri Lanka (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam)</td>
<td>Thiranagama, 12-40</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Presentations #1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ladakh group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Presentations #2 and #3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Karachi &amp; Bangladesh groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Presentations #4 and #5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nepal &amp; Sri Lanka groups</td>
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</tbody>
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Unit Six: Migration, Globalization and Diaspora

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Colonial Migration</td>
<td>Mann: 212-246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>South Asia in UK/Caribbean</td>
<td><em>East is East</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>South Asians in US</td>
<td>BB: Takaki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Globalization 1: IT (flipped class)</td>
<td><em>July Boys</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Globalization II: Bollywood</td>
<td>BB: Karran, O’Neill</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>Globalization III: Yoga</td>
<td>BB: Mannur &amp; Sahni, Singh (2 blogs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>South Asia in Texas</td>
<td><em>Namesake</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Nepali-Bhutanese Refugees</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Reading Day: NO CLASS</td>
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