

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

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Course I.A.: David McRae

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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 own 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
2. Adiga, Aravind (2008), *White Tiger*, Free Press.
3. Mann, Michael (2015), *South Asia's Modern History*, Routledge.
4. Elective: pick one of the following five books depending on Unit 3 Group
 - a. Shneiderman, Sara (2015) *Rituals of Ethnicity*, University of Pennsylvania Press.
 - b. Thiranagama, Sharika (2011) *In My Mother's House*, University of Pennsylvania Press.
 - c. Aggarwal, Ravina (2004) *Beyond Lines of Control*, Duke University Press.
 - d. Ring, Laura (2006) *Zenana: Everyday Peace in a Karachi Apartment Building*, Indiana University Press.
 - 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

Reading Quizzes	10%
Geography Exam	10%
History Exam	20%
Media Paper	15%
Reflexive Paper	15%
Borderline Presentations	15%
Globalization Blog	15%

Total	100%
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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

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/>.

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

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

Unit Two: History

Date	Topic	Film	Reading	Graded Work
February 8	Indus Valley Civilization	BB: <i>Empire of Spirit</i> (4:00-21:00)	BB: Timeline, Intro to Indus, Slide Show, Mohenjo-Dara	Media Paper Due
February 10	The Mughals & EIC	BB: <i>Empire of Spirit</i> (21:00-43:45)	Mann: 20-51	

February 12	Agriculture		Mann: 137-172	
February 15	British Raj	BB: <i>Empire of Spirit</i> (43:45-end)	Mann: 90-105	
February 17	Resistance (flipped class)		Mann: 55-80	
February 19	Industrialization & Urbanization		Mann: 172-74; 272-283; 290-304; 346-352	
February 22	Independence & Partition	<i>Midnight's Children</i>		
February 24	Post-Colonial States		Mann: 105-133; 174-180; 304-310	
February 26	Class Cancelled			History Exam

Unit Three: Persons, Kinship, Gender and Marriage

Date	Topic	Film	Reading	Graded Work
February 29	Family I	<i>Akhon Dekhi</i>	BB: Wadley, Singh (3 blogs), Parajuly	
March 2	Family II		BB: Jeffery & Jeffery, Lamb	
March 4	Marriage	<i>Great Indian Marriage Bazaar</i>	BB: Nanda, Akhter	
March 7	Modern Marriage & Romance	<i>Monsoon Wedding</i>	BB: Abraham, Kapur, Singh	
March 9	Gender		BB: Gamburd, Nanda	
March 11	Caste & Class (flipped class)		BB: Mines & Lamb, Parajuly	

Have a great Spring Break!

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

March 21	Hindu Traditions		BB: Michaels	Reflexive Paper due
March 23	Buddhism		BB: Sihle	
March 25	Islam and Christianity		BB: Hyder, PBS, Thaekaekara	
March 28	Ladakh (Islam, Buddhism)	<i>Bajrangi Bhaijaan</i>	BB: Aggarwal, 1-14, 31-55, 223-235	
March 30	Class Cancelled			
April 1	Virtual Class: Rural Bangladesh (Islam/Hinduism)		BB: Roy, ch. 1	
April 4	Karachi, Pakistan (Islam)		BB: Ring, 1-26	
April 6	Nepal/India (ethnicity and Buddhism/Hinduism)		BB: Shneiderman, ch. 1, 4	
April 8	Sri Lanka (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam)		BB: Thiranagama, 12-40	
April 11	Presentations #1			Ladakh group
April 13	Presentations #2 and #3			Karachi & Bangladesh groups
April 15	Presentations #4 and #5			Nepal & Sri Lanka groups

Unit Six: Migration, Globalization and Diaspora

April 18	Colonial Migration		Mann: 212-246	
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April 20	South Asia in UK/Caribbean	<i>East is East</i>	Mann: 246-259	
April 22	South Asians in US		BB: Takaki	
April 25	Globalization 1: IT (flipped class)	<i>July Boys</i>	BB: Nadeem	
April 27	Globalization II: Bollywood		BB: Karran, O'Neill	
April 29	Globalization III: Yoga		BB: Mannur & Sahni, Singh (2 blogs)	
May 2	South Asia in Texas	<i>Namesake</i>	BB: Afzal, chs. 1, 5, Anand	
May 4	Nepali-Bhutanese Refugees			
May 6	Reading Day: NO CLASS			Globalization Blog due