



University of North Texas
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Anthropology
ANTH 3700.200/300
Peoples and Cultures of South Asia

Instructor

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Office hours: Mondays 12-2pm, or by appointment

Communication Expectations: My preferred mode of communication is via UNT email. You can access this account through your own unt email address or by using the Message tab in Canvas. Students can expect a response within 24 hours during the week, and 48 hours during the weekend. Feedback and grades on assignments will be provided within one week of the due date.

Instructional Assistants

To be announced

**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 Requirements & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Camera
- Microsoft Office Suite
- [Canvas Technical Requirements \(https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements\)](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

- Using Canvas

- Using word
- Using computer camera and microphone to record short videos

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.

See these [Netiquette Guidelines \(http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf\)](http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf) for more information.

Success in an Online Course

Visit this site for tips on “How to Succeed as an Online Student” (<https://clear.unt.edu/teaching-resources/online-teaching/succeed-online>).

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help \(https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328\)](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Student Support Services

- [Registration \(https://registrar.unt.edu/registration\)](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- [Financial Aid \(https://financialaid.unt.edu/\)](https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- [Student Legal Services \(https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services\)](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- [Career Center \(https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center\)](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- [Multicultural Center \(https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center\)](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)

- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [Student Affairs Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)
- [MathLab](https://math.unt.edu/mathlab) (<https://math.unt.edu/mathlab>)

Course Requirements

Graded Work	Percent of Final Grade	What each submission contributes to final grade
Syllabus Quiz & Self-Introduction	5	2.5
6 Discussions	20	3.33
3 Vlogs	15	5
3 Assignments	25	8.33
4 Quizzes	35	8.75

Student Expectations

1. Lectures/Reading: For every lesson, listen to and view 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, vlogs and papers will be based on these activities.
4. Discussions: Complete 6 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. Vlogs: Complete 3 short video blogs. In response to a given course-related question, each student will make 3-minute videos on their computers and upload them to Canvas. The goal of the vlogs is to verbally articulate an

argument in a concise and precise manner. This does not mean an editorial or opinion webcam.

6. Papers: Write and submit three papers. For each paper, students will need to apply course material to their own observations, experiences, or independent research. Submit as a word document and upload to Canvas.

7. Quizzes: Complete 4 quizzes. 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

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. Assignment Policy

The due dates, instructions, and submission process for each assignment are provided in each week’s module.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

- It is the instructor’s responsibility to facilitate a learning environment in which students feel comfortable and prepared to engage in provocative conversations and debates. The instructor will also provide clear

instructions and evaluation criteria for each learning activity, and accessible course material.

- I aim to return graded work to you within one week of the due date. When this is not possible, I will send an announcement to the class.

3. Submitting Late Work: No coursework will be accepted via email. Late work will only be accepted if the student requests an extension at least 24 hours before the deadline. Without an excuse, the student must provide documentation of a [university-excused absence \(opens in a new window\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

4. 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).

5. 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.

UNT Policies**Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website \(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/).

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

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. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

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](http://www.ecfr.gov/) (<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.

Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission. Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.