South Asia Studies Program

Wellesley College
2020-2021

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South Asia

The Indus River Valley civilization (3500-1300 BCE), situated in what is now Pakistan, was one of the world’s great ancient civilizations. Today known as South Asia, the Asian subcontinent stretches from Afghanistan and Pakistan through North India to Bangladesh and Northeast India and from Nepal and Bhutan in the Himalayas to Sri Lanka and the Maldives in the Indian Ocean. Governments of these eight countries comprise the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

One fourth of humanity is South Asian. South Asia has contributed greatly to the arts, humanities, and social sciences of the world. The subcontinent has produced a large body of knowledge on artistic, linguistic, and literary practices; on varieties of colonialism and imperialism; on the political construction of national and religious identities; on the intersections of ethnicity, gender, and politics; and on violence and non-violence.
The South Asia Studies Program

South Asia Studies is the study of this region, its cultures, histories, languages, literature, politics, religions, societies, and people, including those living outside of the region.

South Asia Studies is an ideal liberal arts concentration because the subjects of inquiry are complex and challenging and because the methods of inquiry are interdisciplinary. Students learn to think contextually and at the intersection of disciplines.

The South Asia Studies Program allows students to learn both European and South Asian epistemologies. At the same time, students are required to focus on a single method, such as literary analysis, or a single thematic focus, such as international development. Students learn intercultural skills, including how to communicate in South Asian languages.

With more than one dozen faculty with research and teaching interests in South Asia, in nine departments and programs, we are able to ensure that each student benefits from a unique, well-designed course of study. We expect each student to gain broad understanding of the cultures, histories, religions, societies, and politics of the region and to gain skills in the ability to speak and comprehend, and to write and read in Hindi and Urdu, two of South Asia’s principal languages, or in another South Asian language. Majors and minors develop facility in aesthetic judgment; linguistic, historical, and literary interpretation; and behavior and social analysis.

The Program works to develop in students the skills to become critical thinkers, cogent writers, and effective researchers on a range of vital questions. Students begin to acquire, and critically examine, sentiments necessary to appreciate and understand South Asian cultures.

Requirements for the Major

A major in South Asia Studies requires nine South Asia Studies or South Asia Studies related units, including completion of Intermediate Hindi-Urdu or demonstration of advanced proficiency in a South Asian language; at least two units in the humanities; and at least two units in the social sciences. Two units may be at the 100-level; at least two must be at the 300-level (excluding 350). Introduction to Hindi-Urdu cannot count toward the major; Intermediate Hindi-Urdu can.

Requirements for the Minor

A minor in South Asia Studies requires five South Asia Studies or South Asia Studies related units. At least one of these must be in the humanities; at least one in the social sciences; and at least one at the 300-level (excluding 350). Only one course at the 100 level may count toward the minor. Introduction to Hindi-Urdu cannot count toward the minor; Intermediate Hindi-Urdu can.
Placement and Proficiency Assessments

Dr. Richard Delacy can answer questions about language placement and proficiency assessments. He can be reached at rdelacy@wellesley.edu.

Questions about the Program

Professor of South Asia Studies Neelima Shukla-Bhatt can answer questions about fulfilling major and minor requirements, including through study away from Wellesley. She can be reached at nshuklab@wellesley.edu.

The Director of the South Asia Studies Program is Christopher Candland, Associate Professor of Political Science. He is also happy to answer questions about the program. He can be reached at ccandlan@wellesley.edu.

Fall 2020 Courses

At least 14 courses offered in Fall 2020 can fulfill requirements for the South Asia Studies major or minor. Students may propose to the program director other courses to fulfill the major and minor requirements.

South Asia Studies related Courses

Some courses (denoted with an *) require that the student arrange with the course instructor and the program director, in the first week of the course, that the course will count toward the major or minor. Normally, the student arranges, and the instructor confirms, that the final project will be related to South Asia. These courses are referred to below as South Asia Studies related courses.

Term One

HNUR 201
Intermediate Hindi/Urdu
Richard Delacy

Intermediate Hindi/Urdu will build on the reading, writing, and speaking skills acquired in Introductory Hindi/Urdu (HNUR 101–102). The readings, drawn from simple literary texts as well as from social and journalistic writings, will reinforce the grammar learned in the introductory course and introduce new grammar topics. The writing exercises—mainly in essay formats—will stress usage of idioms and sentence constructions by students. The class will be conducted in Hindi/Urdu with a part of every class dedicated to conversation on the theme of the day in the language.

Remote
Prerequisite: HNUR 101 and HNUR 102 or equivalent
Each semester of HNUR 101 and HNUR 102 earns one unit of credit but both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit.
Monday and Thursday 10.00 – 12.45
HIST 275
**Ethnic Identities in Modern South Asia**
Nikhil Rao

South Asian society has long been represented by rigid systems of hierarchy. Caste, most famously, has been represented as an inexorable determinant of social possibility. Yet, what are the ways in which people actually identify themselves, and to what extent is hierarchical identification a product of South Asia’s modern history? This course explores the problems of social and cultural difference in South Asia. How do modern institutions such as the census and electoral politics shape the way in which these problems are perceived today? What are the effects of the introduction of English education? How does migration and diaspora impinge upon identity? In addition to caste, we also consider religion, class, gender, and migration in seeking to unravel the complex notion of ethnicity.

Remote
Historical Studies
No prerequisites
Monday and Thursday 10.00 – 12.45

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MES 261 / REL 261
**Cities in the Islamic World**
Louise Marlow

An exploration of urban forms and culture in Muslim societies from Islamic late antiquity to the present. The course examines and critiques concepts of ‘the Arab city’ and ‘the Islamic city’ while focusing on elements of continuity and change in particular cities, such as Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo, Istanbul, Isfahan, Samarqand, Lucknow and Lahore. Topics include migration, settlement, and the construction of new cities; conversion; the emergence of ‘holy cities’ as centres for pilgrimage, religious education and Islamic legal scholarship; sacred space and architecture; religious diversity in urban environments; the impact of colonialism; post-colonial developments; modern and contemporary environmental issues; renewal and preservation.

Remote
Historical Studies; Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
One unit in Middle Eastern Studies, or Religion, or permission of the instructor.
This course is also offered at the 300-level as MES 265
Monday through Friday 8.30 – 9.45

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PEAC 104
**Introduction to the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Justice**
Catia Confortini

An interdisciplinary introduction to the study of conflict, justice, and peace. The course engages students in developing an analytical and theoretical framework for examining the dynamics of conflict, violence, and injustice and the strategies that have been employed to attain peace and justice, including balance of power, cooperation, diplomacy and conflict resolution, law, human rights, social movements, social justice (economic, environmental, and race/class/gender), interpersonal communication, and religiously inspired social transformation.

On-Campus
Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy; Social and Behavioral Analysis
No prerequisites
Tuesday and Friday 10.00 – 12.45

Thirteen seats are reserved for first semester students until August 22, 2020.

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REL 108
**Introduction to Asian Religions**
T. James Kodera

An introduction to the major religions of India, Tibet, China, and Japan with particular attention to universal questions such as how to overcome the human predicament, how to perceive ultimate reality, and what is the meaning of death and the end of the world. Materials taken from Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto. Comparisons made, when appropriate, with Hebrew and Christian Scriptures.

On-Campus
Religion, Ethics and Moral Philosophy
No prerequisites
Not open to students of REL 109
Monday through Friday 1.00 – 2.15

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REL 211 / SAS 211
Sacred Arts of South Asia
Neelima Shukla-Bhatt

South Asia is one of the most religiously diverse regions of the world where Hindu, Islamic, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh, Christian, Jewish and native traditions have co-existed for centuries. The vibrancy of its cultural life derives greatly from artistic expressions of devotion in its multiple traditions. Yet, the sacred artistic expressions are not limited to the sphere of religion. This course explores visual as well as performative sacred art forms of South Asia including architecture, sculpture, painting, music, and dance from a historical perspective. The exploration focuses on symbolic vocabulary of various art forms, their significance as media of religious/spiritual knowledge, and their role as sites of social encounters.

Remote
Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy; Visual Arts, Music, Theater
No Prerequisites
Monday and Thursday 10.00 – 12.45

Term Two

ANTH 236 / REL 236
Divine Madness: Dreams, Visions, Hallucinations *
Holly Walters

This course explores anthropological, religious, and psychiatric perspectives on mental health and mental illness, with careful attention to varied constructions of "madness," treatment, and healing across human cultures. We begin with comparative questions: Are there universal standards of positive mental and emotional functioning? Are there overall commonalities in approaches to psychic and emotional disturbances? What is the role of spirituality? After considering the history of 'madness' in the West, we consider early anthropological and religious models of 'madness' elsewhere. We next turn to ritualized therapeutic interventions in small-scale indigenous societies and consider case studies from around the world. We conclude with a unit on culture and mental health in the United States and the 'globalization' of American models of the psyche.

Remote
Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy; Social and Behavioral Analysis
No Prerequisites
Monday and Wednesday 7.00 – 9.30

HIST 266 / SAS 266
The Indian Ocean as African, Arab, and South Asian History
Lidwien Kapteijns and Nikhil Rao

This course examines the history of interaction of Africans, Arabs, Persians, and South Asians in the coastal regions of East Africa, the Arabian/Persian Gulf, and India, which together enclose the western Indian Ocean. In the period under study (1500 to the present), European imperial expansion and a globalizing economy played an increasingly transformative role. We will read about the port cities connecting these shores; the movements and networks of people; the objects and patterns of trade; the intensifying slave trade; shared environmental and health hazards, and the exchange of legal and commercial practices, and religious and political ideas.

Remote
Historical Studies
Open to students with at least one course in either History or African, Middle Eastern, or South Asian studies.
This course can be taken as HIST 367/SAS 367 with more assignments.
Monday and Thursday 10.00 – 12.45
Intermediate Hindi/Urdu will build on the reading, writing, and speaking skills acquired in Introductory Hindi/Urdu (HNUR 101–102). The readings, drawn from simple literary texts as well as from social and journalistic writings, will reinforce the grammar learned in the introductory course and introduce new grammar topics. The writing exercises—mainly in essay formats—will stress usage of idioms and sentence constructions by students. The class will be conducted in Hindi/Urdu with a part of every class dedicated to conversation on the theme of the day in the language.

Each semester of HNUR 101 and HNUR 102 earns one unit of credit but both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit.

Remote
Prerequisite: HNUR 101 and HNUR 102 or equivalent
Each semester of HNUR 201 and HNUR 202 earns one unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.
Monday and Thursday 10.00 – 12.45

**POL 204**
Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment *
Christopher Candland

Overview of development studies with attention to major schools of political economy, their intellectual origins and centrality to contemporary debates about economic development. Topics include colonialism, nationalism, and independence; postcolonial economic development models, policies, and strategies; perspectives on gender and development; changing conceptions and measures of poverty, development, and underdevelopment; contemporary debates in development studies.

Remote
Social and Behavioral Analysis
No Prerequisites
Monday through Friday 4.00 – 5.15

**REL 257**
Contemplation and Action *
T. James Kodera

An exploration of the relationship between the two polar aspects of being religious. Materials drawn from across the globe, both culturally and historically. Topics include: self-cultivation and social responsibility, solitude and compassion, human frailty as a basis for courage, anger as an expression of love, nonviolence, Western adaptations of Eastern spirituality, meditation and the environmental crisis. Readings selected from Confucius, Gautama Buddha, Ryokan, Mahatma Gandhi, Abraham Heschel, Dag Hammarskjöld, Simone Weil, Thomas Merton, Thich Nhat Hanh, Henri Nouwen, Beverly Harrison, Benjamin Hoff, Ruben Habito, and others.

On-Campus
Historical Studies; Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
No prerequisites
Monday and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 1.00 – 2.15

**REL 267 / MES 267 / REL 347 / MES 347**
Muslim Ethics *
Louise Marlow

How have Muslims, over the course of a millennium and a half and in strikingly different environments and circumstances, conceived of human nature, moral conduct and responsibility, and the good life; and how have they formulated, debated and applied ethical principles? This course explores these questions with reference to the rich materials that have informed the religious cultures of Muslim communities, including the sacred sources of the Qur’an and the Prophet’s example, the reception, interpretation and development of late antique moral philosophies and wisdom literatures, the evolving corpora of legal and theological scholarship, and the elaboration of rationally based ethical systems. Issues include charity, the environment, gender, dispute resolution, violence and non-violence.

Remote
Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
No prerequisites
This course may be taken as REL 267/MES 267 or, with additional assignments, REL 347/MES 347.
Monday through Thursday 10.00 – 11.15
SAS 232 / SOC 232
South Asian Diasporas
Smitha Radhakrishnan

If any mention of South Asian culture conjures for you Bollywood films, Bharatanatyam dancers, and Google engineers, then this course will prompt you to reconsider. Adopting a sociological perspective that examines culture from the specific context of migration, we will study the histories of Punjabi-Mexican families in California, Gujarati motel owners across the United States, South African Indians at the end of apartheid, and Bangladeshi garment workers in London’s East End, among others. Through our study, we develop a nuanced understanding of race, culture, migration, and upward mobility in the United States and beyond, while also considering the power of mobile South Asian cultures, including movies, music, dance, and religion.

Remote
Social and Behavioral Analysis
No Prerequisites
Monday and Thursday 1.00 – 3.45 pm

Spring 2021 Courses

At least 13 courses offered in Spring 2021 can fulfil requirements for the South Asia Studies major or minor. Students may propose to the program director other courses to fulfil the major and minor requirements.

Term Three

NHUR 101
Elementary Hindi/Urdu
Neelima Shukla-Bhatt

Introduction to the most widely spoken language in the South Asian subcontinent, also used extensively for interregional and international communications. Learning this language provides a linguistic passport to things South Asian. The language—often referred to as “Hindustani”—is written in two different scripts: the Perso-Arabic based Urdu, and the Sanskrit based Devanagari (Hindi). Students will learn to converse in the language and to read and write in both scripts. Conventional teaching materials will be supplemented by popular songs and clips from contemporary Indian cinema and television, the two internationally popular media that use this language.

Remote
Each semester of HNUR 101 and HNUR 102 earns one unit of credit but both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit.
No prerequisites

HIST 383
Seminar: 1947: Partition in History and Memory in South Asia
Nikhil Rao

In the years leading to 1947, nationalist activism against the British and tensions between Hindus and Muslims escalated in the Indian subcontinent. This culminated in Partition and the emergence of the nations of India and Pakistan. Independence was marred, however, by the bloodshed accompanying the mass movements of Muslims into Pakistan and Hindus into India. What were the factors leading to this juxtaposition of triumphant Independence with shameful Partition? How have memories of Partition continued to affect powerfully politics and culture in the subcontinent? This seminar investigates such questions using a wide variety of materials, including novels, such as Bapsi Sidhwa’s Cracking India; feature films, such as Deepa Mehta’s 1947; and documentary films, such as Sabiha Sumar’s Silent Waters.

Remote
Historical Studies
open to juniors and seniors who have 200-level unit in history relevant area

POL 211
Politics of South Asia
Christopher Candland

An introduction to the politics of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nepal, and Bhutan) from historical and contemporary, national and comparative perspectives. Examines the relationship of political institutions to patterns of development. Comparative themes include: colonial experiences and nationalist ideologies; politicization of religions and rise of religious conflict; government and political processes; economic policies; initiative for conflict transformation; women’s empowerment; and obstacles to and prospects for human development.

Remote
Social and Behavioral Analysis
No prerequisites
PSCY 346
Seminar: Culture and Emotion *
Stephen Chen

This seminar examines ways in which cultural factors interact with basic emotional processes. We will integrate theoretical and empirical research from different areas of psychology (e.g., developmental, social, clinical), and will also include readings from other disciplines (e.g., anthropology and applied linguistics). Topics will include culture and emotion regulation, emotion and language, and socialization of emotion in the family.

On-Campus
Social and Behavioral Analysis
Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units, excluding PSYC 205, PSYC 250, and PSYC 299, or permission of the instructor.
not open to students who have taken PSYC 322

Term Four

ANTH 233 / REL 233
Anthropology of Religion *
Holly Walters

This course offers an introduction to the anthropological study of human religious experience, with particular emphasis on religious and ritual practice in a comparative perspective. What is the relationship between religion and society? Can categories such as "religion" and "the sacred" be legitimately applied to all cultures? Does religion necessarily imply belief in a God or sacred beings? We will concentrate on a range of small-scale, non-Western, cultures for much of the semester, returning to religious experience in the modern industrial world and the concept of "world religions" at the course's end.

Remote
Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy; Social and Behavioral Analysis
No prerequisites

HIST 272
Political Economy of Development in Colonial and Post-Colonial South Asia
Nikhil Rao

In 1947, India was partitioned into India and Pakistan. Since then, these countries have wrestled with issues of governance and development, but colonial rule casts a long shadow over their efforts. This course introduces students to the complex politico-economic landscape of the subcontinent by examining how the idea of development changes in modern South Asian history. How are developmental efforts embedded in contexts of politics, society, and culture? How do political systems affect decisions? This course considers these questions by examining themes such as the colonial state's construction of railway and irrigation networks; Gandhi's critique of industrialization; Nehru's vision of an industrial economy; the challenges posed by Partition and militarization of Pakistan; the Green Revolution; and the onset of economic deregulation.

Remote
Historical Studies
No prerequisites

HNUR 102
Elementary Hindi/Urdu
Neelima Shukla-Bhatt

Introduction to the most widely spoken language in the South Asian subcontinent, also used extensively for interregional and international communications. Learning this language provides a linguistic passport to things South Asian. The language--often referred to as "Hindustani"--is written in two different scripts: the Perso-Arabic based Urdu, and the Sanskrit based Devanagari (Hindi). Students will learn to converse in the language and to read and write in both scripts. Conventional teaching materials will be supplemented by popular songs and clips from contemporary Indian cinema and television, the two internationally popular media that use this language.

Remote
Each semester of HNUR 101 and HNUR 102 earns one unit of credit but both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit.
PEAC 104
Introduction to the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Justice *
Catia Confortini

An interdisciplinary introduction to the study of conflict, justice, and peace. The course engages students in developing an analytical and theoretical framework for examining the dynamics of conflict, violence, and injustice and the strategies that have been employed to attain peace and justice, including balance of power, cooperation, diplomacy and conflict resolution, law, human rights, social movements, social justice (economic, environmental, and race/class/gender), interpersonal communication, and religiously inspired social transformation.

On-Campus
Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy; Social and Behavioral Analysis
No prerequisites

PEAC 204
Conflict and Transformation *
Nadya Hajj

This course provides the student with an in-depth study of conflict and its resolution. We will explore the basic theoretical concepts of the field and apply this knowledge as we learn and practice skills for analyzing and resolving conflicts. The course seeks to answer the following questions at both the theoretical level and the level of engaged action: What are the causes and consequences of conflict? How do we come to know and understand conflict? How do our assumptions about conflict affect our strategies for management, resolution, or transformation? What methods are available for waging and resolving conflicts productively rather than destructively?

Remote
Social and Behavioral Analysis
PEAC 104 or permission of the instructor.

PSYCH 222
Asian-American Psychology *
Stephen Chen

How can cultural values influence the way we process information, recall memories, or express emotion? What contributes to variations in parenting styles across cultures? How do experiences such as biculturalism, immigration, and racism affect mental health? This course will examine these questions with a specific focus on the cultural experiences of Asian Americans. Our aim is to understand how these experiences interact with basic psychological processes across the lifespan, with attention to both normative and pathological development.

On-Campus
Social and Behavioral Analysis
PSYC 101, AMST 151, a score of 5 on the Psychology AP exam, or a score of 5, 6, or 7 on the Higher Level IB exam, or permission of the instructor.

POL2 319
Seminar: Comparative National Responses to SARS-COV-2 *
Christopher Candland

How have national governments across the world responded to the pandemic? Why did they respond as differently as they did, and at such varying times? How did national political institutions, such as federalism and separation of powers, influence executive and legislative public policy? What are the best practices for future outbreaks and pandemics? How likely – given what we can learn about political constraints and opportunities – are governments to implement those practices? These important questions are well addressed using comparative political analysis. At the same time, studying pandemic responses by national governments gives students a common subject matter with which to assess the principle comparative methods, including analysis of variation (e.g., regression), case studies, historical institutions, political cultures, public policies, leadership and decision-making. We will focus on Brazil, China, Germany, India, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, and the United States, permitting several interesting comparative pairings and sets.

Remote
Social and Behavioral Analysis
Two units of SBA. POL2 202 and POL2 area studies courses are recommended.
Admission to POLS seminars is by application.
**REL 253**

**Buddhist Thought and Practice** *
T. James Kodera

A study of Buddhist views of the human predicament and its solution, using different teachings and forms of practice from India, Southeast Asia, Tibet, China, and Japan. Topics including the historic Buddha's sermons, Buddhist psychology and cosmology, meditation, bodhisattva career, Tibetan Tantra, Pure Land, Zen, and dialogues with and influence on the West.

On-Campus
Historical Studies; Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
No prerequisites

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**REL 357**

**Seminar: Issues in Comparative Religion** *
Jim Kodera

Promises and challenges in the evolving debate over how different truth claims and faith communities might seek tolerance, respect, and coexistence. How to reconcile tradition with innovation, doctrine with practice, contemplation with action, globalism with tribalism. Impediments of monotheism and "revealed scripture." The role of religion in prejudice and discrimination; and yet also in peace and justice. The rise of Buddhism in the West and of Christianity in the East. Readings include works by Wilfred Cantwell Smith, John Hick, Uchimura Kanzo, Endo Shusako, Raimundo Panikkar, Thich Nhat Hanh, the Dalai Lama, and Diana Eck.

On-Campus
Historical Studies; Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
No prerequisites

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**All Wellesley South Asia Studies and Related Courses**

Courses with an asterisk ( *) require permission of the instructor(s) and South Asia Studies Program director to count toward the South Asia Studies major or minor; they normally require a final paper related to South Asia Studies.

**ANTHROPOLOGY**

* ANTH 203
Indigenous People, Global Development, and Human Rights

* ANTH 232
Anthropology of Media

* ANTH 237
Ethnography in/of South Asia

* ANTH 247
Beyond Bollywood: Visual Cultures of South Asia

* ANTH 247
Societies and Cultures of Eurasia

**ART HISTORY**

* ARTH 239
Art and Architecture of South Asia

* ARTH 240
Asian Art and Architecture

* ARTH 247
Islamic Art and Architecture

* ARTH 312
Art and Imperialism in the Long Nineteenth Century

* ARTH 313
Empires, Merchants, and Missionaries in Early Modern Eurasia

**CINEMA AND MEDIA STUDIES**

CAMS 243 / SAS 243
Love in Indian Cinema

**HISTORY**

HIST 270
Colonialism, Nationalism, and Decolonization in South Asia

HIST 272
Political Economy of Development in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia

HIST 275
The Emergence of Ethnic Identities in Modern South Asia

HIST 276
The City in South Asia

HIST 382S
Seminar. Gandhi, Nehru, and Ambedkar: The Making of Modern India

HIST 395
Port Cities of the Indian Ocean
HINDI AND URDU

HNUR 101 Elementary Hindi - Urdu
HNUR 102 Elementary Hindi - Urdu
HNUR 201 Intermediate Hindi - Urdu
HNUR 202 Intermediate Hindi – Urdu

PEACE AND JUSTICE

* PEAC 104 Introduction to the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Justice
* PEAC 204 Conflict and Transformation
PEAC 323 / SAS 323 Winter-session: Gandhi in His Context

POLITICAL SCIENCE

* POL2 202 Comparative Politics
* POL2 204 Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment
POL2 211 Politics of South Asia
POL3 223 International Relations of South Asia
* POL2 310S Seminar. Politics of Community Development
* POL2 319S Seminar. Comparative National Responses to SARS-COVI-2
* POL3 351 Global Governance

PSYCHOLOGY

* PSYC 222 Asian American Psychology
* PSYC 346 Seminar. Culture and Emotion

RELIGION

REL 108 Introduction to Asian Religions
REL 118 First-year Seminar: The “Untouchables” of India and Their Liberators
REL 253 Buddhist Thought and Practice
* REL 259 Christianity in Asia
* REL 260 Religion and Culture in Muslim Societies
* REL 261 Cities of the Islamic World

RELIGION (continued)

* REL 262 The Formation of the Islamic Tradition
* REL 263 Islam in the Modern World
REL 281S / SAS 211S Sacred Arts of South Asia
* REL 267/ MES 267 Muslim Ethics
* REL 347 / MES 347 Muslim Ethics
REL 301S / SAS 301S Seminar. Religion in Modern South Asia
REL 303S / SAS 303S Seminar. Models of Religious Pluralism from South Asia
REL 354S Seminar. Tibetan Buddhism
* REL 364S Seminar. Sufism: Islamic Mysticism
* REL 367S Seminar. Muslim Travelers

SOUTH ASIA STUDIES

SAS 211 / REL 281 Sacred Arts of South Asia
SAS 239 / ARTH 239 Art and Architecture of South Asia
SAS 243 / CAMS 243 Love in Indian Cinema
SAS 252 / REL 252 Women and Religion in South Asia
SAS 301S / REL 301S Seminar. Religion in Modern South Asia
SAS 303S / REL 303S Seminar. Models of Religious Pluralism from South Asia
SAS 323 / PEAC 323 Winter-session. Gandhi in His Context

SOCIOLGY

SOC 252 / SAS 252 South Asian Diasporas
SOC 253 Gender and Power in South Asia
* SOC 254 Gender and International Development
* SOC 221 Globalization
* SOC 309S Seminar. Nations in Intersectional Perspective
South Asia Studies and Affiliated Faculty

**Gurminder Khaur Bhogal**
Catherine Mills Davis Associate Professor of Music
gbhogal@wellesley.edu

Scholarly interests focus on the music of French composers including Maurice Ravel, Claude Debussy, Erik Satie, Gabriel Fauré, Maurice Delage; the practice of ornament in French music and the visual arts during the early twentieth century; music and aesthetics (particularly ideas concerning ephemerality, nothingness, and atmosphere); music and orientalism/exoticism/japonisme; Sikh devotional music (Sikh Kirtan).

**Christopher Candland**
Associate Professor of Political Science
Director of the South Asia Studies Program
ccandlan@wellesley.edu

Interested in political dimensions of human development, and in policies that enhance education, employment, health, and dignity.

**Stephen Chen**
Assistant Professor of Psychology
schen@wellesley.edu

Research explores how culture and family processes influence development and mental health across the lifespan.

**Catia Confortini**
Associate Professor of Peace and Justice Studies;
Co-Director of the Peace and Justice Studies Program
cconfortini@wellesley.edu

Scholar and activist around issues of peace and gender.

**Richard Delacy**
Lecturer in South Asia Studies
rdelacy@wellesley.edu

Academic background is in modern Hindi language and literature from the colonial period onwards, in particular the literary novel in the late twentieth century. He has also studied commercial Hindi cinema produced in Mumbai from middle of the twentieth century. He has taught all levels of Hindi-Urdu, courses on Bollywood cinema, the Urdu ghazal, and has also published several language teaching materials and offers courses at the beginner’s and intermediate level at Wellesley College.

**Nadya Hajj**
Associate Professor of Peace and Justice
nhajj@wellesley.edu

Political scientist in the Peace and Justice Studies program. I study how marginalized communities, specifically Palestinian refugees, develop cooperative strategies to solve collective dilemmas in suboptimal conditions.

**Lidwien Kapteijns**
Elizabeth Kimball Kendall and Elisabeth Hodder Professor of History
lkapt@wellesley.edu

Teaches the history of Africa, the Middle East, and the western Indian Ocean. She has published widely about the history of Somalia and, earlier in her career, the Sudan.

**T. James Kodera**
Professor of Religion
jkodera@wellesley.edu

Educator and scholar in the comparative and historical study of religion with a focus on West Asia, South Asia, and East Asia.

**Louise Marlow**
Professor of Religion;
Director for Middle Eastern Studies Program
lmarlow@wellesley.edu

Studies classical Arabic and Persian prose literature, with particular attention to wisdom literature and advisory texts produced in Persianate environments between the tenth and fourteenth centuries. Her work seeks to situate specific writings in their historical and literary contexts and to integrate them into current historical research.

**Stephen Anthony Marini**
Elisabeth Luce Moore Professor of Christian Studies;
Professor of Religion
smarini@wellesley.edu

Academic and public interpreter of religion in American history in the Colonial, Revolutionary, and Early National periods.
Liza Oliver  
Diana Chapman Walsh Assistant Professor of Art  
loliver@wellesley.edu

Art historian focusing on 18th- and 19th-century Europe and South Asia, colonialism, Indian Ocean trade, and intersections of art and science

Smitha Radhakrishnan  
Luella LaMer Associate Professor of Women’s Studies  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
sradhakr@wellesley.edu

Interested in gender, finance and development in India and race, class, and gender in the United States

Larry Rosenwald  
Anne Pierce Rogers Professor of American Literature  
Professor of English  
lrosenwa@wellesley.edu

Americanist, translator, performer (music, theater), verse-writer, pacifist.

Nikhil Rao  
Associate Professor of History  
nrao@wellesley.edu

Scholar of urban history and economic and political development in South Asia

Neelima Shukla-Bhatt  
Professor of South Asia Studies  
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Interests include arts in religious/cultural history of South Asia; the divine and the human feminine in Hindu traditions; Gandhian thought and practices; the self and the other in South Asian philosophical traditions and history.

Holly Walters  
Visiting Lecturer in Anthropology  
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Cultural anthropologist whose ethnographic work focuses on pilgrimage and politics in the Nepal Himalayas, as well as material culture, divine personhood, and ritual practice in South Asia.
South Asia Studies Alumnae

Katie Ellis

Katie is an associate at Harmon Curran, in Washington D.C., where she advises on legal issues facing nonprofits. Before joining Harmon Curran, Katie served as the Executive Director of Community Outreach Group, LLC, a political consulting firm that specializes in canvassing and organizing campaigns for elections and nonprofit advocacy. She was responsible for launching the firm, which hired over 8,000 employees and knocked on 6 million doors, and raised and managed an annual budget of $13 million. Before that, Katie worked for various nonprofits leading national campaigns and capacity-building efforts. She has also done fieldwork for candidates for political office. Katie volunteers with a local legal services clinic that advises low-income clients on employment law.

Olinda Hassan

After Wellesley, Olinda was a Fulbright Fellow in Bangladesh where in addition to teaching English she conducted research on the use of mobile technology in public school education. She earned her MPA from Cornell University where she was the Managing Editor of the Cornell Policy Review. Olinda joined Twitter’s Trust and Safety team during graduate school, where she developed monetization policies with a focus on the Asia Pacific market. She went on to lead major policy work on online abuse, privacy, and media-based harassment for more than 300 million users worldwide. As a part of this effort, Olinda lead projects to help moderate content with cultural context in mind, building training tools, and programs to ensure diverse voices are included in the policy development process. A free speech advocate, Olinda’s interest in technology stems from her international background and studies across the globe, including studying abroad in Morocco, Egypt, and India during her time at Wellesley. Currently, she is a Senior Manager in Trust and Safety at Spotify, where her team is dedicated to creating a safe platform for creators in the music and podcast streaming space. She is based in San Francisco, California.

Kethural Manokaran

Kethural is an environmental health policy researcher. Her current work aims to communicate the health effects of air pollution to policymakers and regulators to inform policies on air quality standards in the United States and around the world. Her current projects include a comprehensive report on trends in country-level air pollution exposure levels worldwide, a case study on household air pollution in Ghana, and an analysis of India’s new National Clean Air Programme. Kethural is passionate about healthcare systems and policy and primary care and community health; she hopes to continue onto medical school and serve in underserved communities. Kethural is a 2018 graduate of Wellesley College, where she studied Neuroscience and South Asia Studies. At Wellesley, she pursued research in the Neuroscience Program and at Boston Children’s Hospital and served on both the Wellesley Association for South Asian Cultures and the Pan-Asian Council. In her senior year, Kethural completed a group independent study exploring South and Southeast Asian diasporas with Professor Smitha Radhakrishnan; for her project, Kethural studied the Sri Lankan diaspora in the United States. The semester-long study culminated in Worlds in Motion, a multi-media platform that showcases the oral histories of individuals who have migrated from South Asia and Southeast Asia to all different parts of the world.
Sohini Pillai

After graduating from Wellesley with a BA in South Asia Studies and Theatre Studies in 2012, Sohini conducted research for nine months in New Delhi on modern performances of the Ramayana on a Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Fellowship. In 2015, Sohini earned an MA in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies from Columbia University. Sohini is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California Berkeley. Her dissertation project explores how regional religious traditions transformed the narration and transmission of the Mahabharata in premodern South Asia. To learn more about her research, please see her Academia page: https://sohinipillai.academia.edu

Rebecca Winslow

Immediately after graduation, Rebecca was awarded an American Institute of Indian Studies fellowship, where she spent ten months continuing her study of Urdu literature and poetry and Shia Muslim culture in Lucknow, India. After that, she continued to travel and work in the Middle East and South Asia, including teaching English at a college in Sana'a, Yemen and running teacher trainings in the backwaters of Kerala. She's traveled to 20 states in India, as well as throughout Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. For the past five years, Rebecca has led gap year and study abroad programs in India, Nepal, and Bhutan for the company Where There Be Dragons. In addition to using her Hindi and Urdu skills nearly every day, she has worked to learn other languages in her travels including some Nepali, Malayalam, Ladakhi, Dzongkha, and Telugu. She lives in Hyderabad, India.

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The South Asia Studies brochure was composed by Christopher Candland. If you are a SAS program alumnae and would like to add a profile, please write to Christopher Candland at ccandlan@wellesley.edu.

The image of the South Asian fabric is from Victoria and Albert Museum.