

Carleton University

Winter 2017

The College of Humanities

SAST 1002A: South Asian Studies II

Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty

Office: 2A35 Paterson Hall

Office Hours: Wed 10:30-12:00

E.mail: mayurika.chakravorty@carleton.ca

Class Schedule: Tues/Thurs 13:05-14:25

Class Location: Southam Hall 413

(*Please confirm on Carleton Central*)

Course Description:

South Asia has emerged as a key global player today and is one of the most dynamic regions in the world, in terms of its demographics, economics, and cultural institutions. With an interdisciplinary approach, this course introduces the students to the history, society, politics, religion, as well as various literary and popular cultural forms of contemporary South Asia.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Enhance their overall knowledge of key historical events and movements in the making of modern South Asia, including the rise of nationalist politics, the Partition, and legacies of decolonization.
- Recognize the intricacies of regional politics among the various nation states in the region, including issues of identity based on ethnic, linguistic, and religious differences.
- Gain insight into the social dynamics of caste and gender in contemporary South Asia, as well as movements for social change.
- Analyze the syncretic antecedents of South Asian religions and investigate the roots of divisive communal politics in recent decades.
- Identify and analyze various aspects of literary and popular cultural forms of contemporary South Asia.
- Improve their academic writing skills through the development of a critical perspective as appropriate for a first year level FASS (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) class.

Required Textbooks:

Perspectives on Modern South Asia: A Reader in Culture, History, and Representation. Edited by Kamala Visweswaran. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Cracking India. Bapsi Sidhwa, Milkweed, 1991.

[Note: The textbooks will be available at Carleton University Bookstore]

In addition, we shall study a small selection of poetry, memoirs, and audio-visual material (to be uploaded on CuLearn or to be screened during class hours).

Course Evaluation:

Attendance/Participation: 15%

You will be graded in terms of preparedness for the class as well as the level of participation in class discussions.

You are expected to attend all classes, having read and reflected upon the material according to the syllabus.

[***NOTE***: Absence from more than 5 classes per term may result in not being allowed to sit in exams or to hand in assignments.]

Weekly News Journal: 25%

Every week you will post a journal entry on a news media story sourced from on-line South Asian newspaper sites. Each journal entry should be between 200-300 words and the first entry will be due during the third week of classes. More details, including a suggested list of newspaper websites, will be provided during the first class.

Midterm: 20%

The midterm will be held in class during regular class hours. The students will be tested on their overall knowledge and understanding of the material covered up to that point. The format will be decided in consultation with the class.

Take-Home Assignment: 15%

From a list of topics handed out, you will need to submit an essay, 2-3 pages long (12 size font, 1.5 spacing) on a theme/topic/issue discussed in class.

Final Exam: 25%

The final exam will take place during the formal examination period at the end of the term. It will evaluate the students' understanding and retention of the course material including class lectures and discussions. The format will be a combination of short and long answer type questions. The students will be able to choose from a list of questions within each of the two sections (short and long).

Course Policies

- All assignments are mandatory and class tests need to be written on the dates specified. If you are unable to make it to class on the day of an in-class assignment, please send me an e. mail in advance as soon as you can. You will need to provide a doctor's note (if you are ill) or other relevant documentation.
- In the case of late submission of an assignment, there will be a penalty of 5% of the total mark per day unless there is a pressing and well-documented reason and you have informed me beforehand.
- All assignments (take-home, essays and term papers) need to be handed in class. Please do not drop in the department drop-box or slip it under my door. If one of your assignments is lost, misplaced, or not received by the instructor, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.

Classroom Etiquette:

- To ensure active participation and lively discussion in class, I do not recommend the use of laptops in class. However, if you wish to type your notes on the computer, you may do so using a word-processing software (e.g. MS Word). **But absolutely no internet browsing/e. mail checking/social-networking in class.** All computers need to be closed during in-class assignments/tests. **Cell-phones need to be put away in silent mode during class hours.**
- **Please come to class on time and be prepared to stay for the entire class.** Coming late or leaving early is highly disruptive and disrespectful towards your professor and fellow students. If

you arrive late due to unforeseen circumstances, please minimize the disturbance by sitting in a seat close to the door. If you leave early (unless there is a valid reason and you have informed me in advance, e.g. doctor's appointment), you will be marked absent for the day even if you have signed the attendance sheet.

-- **Please do not chat/whisper during a lecture, screening, or class discussions. It is unacceptable in a university setting.**

-- Although it is expected that we shall discuss a wide variety of perspectives on the topics discussed in this class, we are also required to do so in a respectful manner. Racist, sexist, homophobic, or ableist comments are unacceptable. To this end, **students must familiarize themselves with the regulations concerning conduct and academic standing as outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar:** The Undergraduate Calendar can be accessed online at: <http://www.carleton.ca/cuuc/>

Schedule of Classes/Readings

Introduction

Jan 5: Introduction

Pre/Modern Religious Pluralities in South Asia

January 10: Intro: "Re-conceptualizing Nation and Region in Modern South Asia" PMSA 1-10

January 12: "Beyond Ethnicity? Being Hindu *and* Muslim in South Asia" (*Shail Mayaram*).
"Towards a Composite Reading of South Asian Religious Cultures: The Case of Islam" (*Syed Akbar Hyder*)

January 17: "Tolerant Hinduism: Shared Ritual Spaces – Hindus and Muslims at the Shrine of Shahul Hamid" (*Vasudha Narayanan*)

Selected Poems of Aga Shahid Ali (to be uploaded on CuLearn)

Social Classifications: Pre-modern and Modern Forms

- January 19: Selected passages from *Manusmriti* [The Laws of Manu] (to be uploaded on CuLearn)
“Notes on the History of the Study of Indian Society and Culture” (*Bernard Cohn*).
- January 24: “Archaeology of Untouchability” (*Gopal Guru*) to be uploaded on CuLearn.
“Hindu Gods and Us: Our Goddesses and the Hindus” (*Kancha Iliah*)
- January 26: “What’s in a Name? Aryans and Dravidians in the Making of Sri Lankan Identities” (*Arjun Guneratne*).
“Ethnicity, Caste and a Pluralist Society in Nepal” (*Rajendra Pradhan*).
- January 31: Screening of documentary “India Untouched: Stories of a People Apart” (2007)
- February 2: Discussion on “India Untouched”

Nationalism, Partition, and the Formation of Nation States in South Asia

- February 7: “Identity, Violence and Women: A Reflection on the Partition of India 1947” (*Nighat Said Khan*).
“Abducted Women, the State and Questions of Honour: Three Perspectives on the Recovery Operation in Post-Partition India” (*Ritu Menon and Kamla Bhasin*).
- February 9: “Memory, History, and the Fictional Representation of the Partition” (*Alok Bhalla*) to be uploaded on CuLearn.
Cracking India
- February 14: *Cracking India*
- February 16: “The Quest for National Identity: Women, Islam and the State in Bangladesh” (*Naila Kabeer*).
Selection from Taslima Nasrin’s “My Girlhood” To be uploaded on CuLearn

February 21: Reading Week, No classes

February 23: Reading Week, No classes

Formation of South-Asian Nation States (contd.)

February 28: “The State and National Foundation in the Maldives” (*Rizwan A. Ahmad*).

“Nationalist Agendas and Women's Rights: Conflicts in Afghanistan in the Twentieth Century” (*Valentine M. Moghadam*).

Inequalities, Discrimination, and Violence: Gender in South Asia

March 2: “Is the Hindu Goddess a Feminist?” (*Rajeswari Sunder Rajan*) to be uploaded on CuLearn.

Screening of the documentary *The World Before Her* (Nisha Pahuja)

March 7: “Some Questions on Feminism and Its Relevance in South Asia” (*Kamla Bhasin and Nighat Said Khan*) to be uploaded on CuLearn.

“Dalit Women Talk Differently” (*Sharmila Rege*) to be uploaded on CuLearn.

March 9: Catch-up lecture (no readings)

Take-Home Assignment Due

States and Communal Conflict in South Asia

March 16: “Reflections on Communal Violence in South Asia” (*Stanley J. Tambiah*).

“Ayodhya: The Modernity of Hinduism” (*Pankaj Mishra*).

March 21: Screening of documentary *Sri Lanka's Killing Fields*

March 23: “Identity on the Borderline: Modernity, New Ethnicities, and the Unmaking of Multiculturalism in Sri Lanka” (*Darini Rajasingham-Senanayake*).

Development and Liberalization

March 28: “Radical Needs and Moderate Reforms” (*Amartya Sen*).

“Who Are the Country's Poor? Social Movement Politics and Dalit Poverty” (*Gopal Guru and Anuradha Chakravarty*).

Social Movements

- March 30: “Politics of the Poor? NGOs and Grass-roots Political Mobilization in Bangladesh” (*Lamia Karim*).
- “From Chipko to Sati: The Contemporary Indian Women's Movement” (*Radha Kumar*).
- April 4: “Monsoon Risings: Mega-Dam Resistance in the Narmada Valley” (*Chittaroopa Palit*).
- “Where There Are No Men: Women in the Maoist Insurgency in Nepal” (*Shobha Gautam, Amrita Banskota and Rita Manchanda*).
- April 6: Review (no readings)

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 9, 2016**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 7, 2017**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **Nov. 11, 2016** for the Fall term and **March 10, 2017** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **3 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic & Career Development Services 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library