

An interdepartmental program

South Asian Studies

Courses of Study:
Minor

Objectives

The South Asian studies program provides a minor (open to students in any major) for those who wish to structure their studies of South Asia or the South Asian Diaspora. The minor offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the literatures, histories, societies, cultures, religions, arts, and contemporary importance of South Asia and diasporic South Asian communities. South Asia, one of the world's most populous and significant regions, includes the modern nations of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and in certain contexts Afghanistan, Maldives, Myanmar, and Tibet. Students completing the minor will come away with a strong understanding of the intellectual, cultural, political, economic, and social developments at key periods in South Asia's history and in the contemporary era.

How to Become a Minor

To enroll in the program, students must see one of the program co-chairs. Together they will select as an advisor a faculty member who seems best suited to that student's interests. Students in the minor work closely with the advisor to develop an individual plan of study. In addition to selecting courses at Brandeis, students may take advantage of the resources of neighboring institutions through the Boston Area Consortium. Courses may be taken at Boston College, Boston University, Tufts University, and Wellesley College. Study abroad in South Asia for a semester is also encouraged.

Program Faculty

Sarah Lamb, Program Co-Chair
(Anthropology)

Harleen Singh, Program Co-Chair
(German, Russian and Asian Languages and Literature)

Ulka Anjaria
(English and American Literature)

Shilpa Davé
(American Studies)

Nidhiya Menon
(Economics)

Ellen Schattschneider
(Anthropology)

Govind Sreenivasan
(History)

Requirements for the Minor

The minor in South Asian studies requires a minimum of five semester courses, distributed as follows:

- A.** Introduction to South Asia (SAS 100a), the South Asian studies core course.
- B.** Four additional courses from the approved South Asian studies curriculum, taken from at least two different departments.

C. A minimum of three of the five courses required for the minor must be taken from Brandeis faculty. Courses taken at other institutions for credit must be approved by the student's advisor and program chair.

D. No course with a final grade below C- can count toward the SAS minor.

E. No more than two courses taken for the SAS minor can double-count toward any other single major or minor.

Students are also encouraged to spend one semester abroad at an approved academic program in South Asia.

Courses of Instruction

(100–199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

SAS 100a Introduction to South Asia

[ss nw]

An exploration of the history, societies, cultures, religions, and literature of South Asia—India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Uses perspectives from history, anthropology, literature, and film to examine past and contemporary life in South Asia. Usually offered every year. Ms. Lamb, Ms. Singh, and Mr. Sreenivasan

SAS 101a South Asian Women Writers

[hum nw]

Includes literature by South Asian women writers from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. Some of the works were originally written in English, while others have been translated from the vernacular. Usually offered every year. Ms. Singh

SAS 110b South Asian Postcolonial Writers

[hum nw]

Looks at the shared history of colonialism, specifically British imperialism, for many countries and examines the postcolonial novel written in English. Works read include those from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Usually offered every year. Ms. Singh

SAS 140a We Who Are at Home Everywhere: Narratives from the South Asian Diaspora

[hum]

Looks at narratives from various locations of the South Asian Diaspora, while paying close attention to the emergence of an immigrant South Asian public culture. Examines novels, poetry, short stories, film, and music in order to further an understanding of South Asian immigrant culture. Usually offered every second year. Ms. Singh

SAS 150b Indian Film: The Three-Hour Dream

[hum nw]

A study of Hindi films made in India since 1947 with a few notable exceptions from regional film, as well as some recent films made in English. Students will read Hindi films as texts/narratives of the nation to probe the occurrence of cultural, religious, historical, political, and social themes. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Singh

SAS 170b South Asia in the Colonial Archive

[hum]

Looks at colonial constructions of gender and race through a historical and literary investigation of British colonialism in South Asia. Examines intersections and constructions of gender, race, class, and sexuality within the parameters of British colonialism. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Singh

Core Elective Courses**ANTH 134a**

South Asian Cultures and Societies

ENG 127a

The Novel in India

Elective Courses (requiring a paper and prior approval from the SAS chair)

The following courses include South Asia as one of the several areas studied. These courses would count toward the minor only if students discuss course content with the instructor and obtain prior permission from the program chair. Normally students wishing to take such a course for the minor will write a paper on South Asia or the South Asian Diaspora.

ANTH 129b

Global, Transnational, and Diasporic Communities

ANTH 137b

Violence and the Sacred in Asia

AMST 140b

The Asian American Experience

AMST 142b

Love, Law, and Labor: Asian American Women and Literature

COML 122b

Writing Home and Abroad: Literature by Women of Color

ECON 176a

The Household, Health, and Hunger in Developing Countries

ENG 77b

Literatures of Global English

FA 12a

History of Asian Art

FA 13b

Buddhist Art

FA 184a

Studies in Asian Art

HS 236a

International Health Systems

HSSP 102a

Global Perspectives on Health

REL 151a

The Buddha: His Life and Teachings

Spanish Language and Literature

See Hispanic Studies.

Sustainable International Development Program

See the Heller School for Social Policy and Management.