

An interdepartmental program  
**South Asian Studies**

Courses of Study:  
 Minor

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**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.

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**How to Become a Minor**

To enroll in the program, students must see one of the undergraduate advising head. Together they will select as an adviser 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.

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**Program Faculty**

**Sarah Lamb, Program Co-Chair**  
 (Anthropology)

**Harleen Singh, Program Co-Chair and Undergraduate Advising Head (on leave spring 2009)**  
 (German, Russian and Asian Languages and Literature)

**Ulka Anjaria**  
 (English and American Literature)

**Shilpa Dave**  
 (American Studies)

**Nidhiya Menon**  
 (Economics)

**Ellen Schattschneider**  
 (Anthropology)

**Govind Sreenivasan**  
 (History)

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**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 adviser 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 or two semesters abroad at an approved academic program in South Asia during their junior year. Appropriate courses taken abroad may count toward the minor. More information can be obtained in the Office of Study Abroad in Usdan 127.

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**Courses of Instruction**


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**(1–99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students**


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**SAS 92a Internship**

Combines off-campus experience in a South Asia-related internship with written analysis under the supervision of a faculty sponsor. Students arrange their own internships. Counts only once toward fulfillment of requirements for the minor. Staff

**SAS 98a Independent Study**

Usually offered every year. Staff

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**(100–199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students**


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**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, or 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**

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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

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**Core Elective Courses**


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**ANTH 134a**

South Asian Culture and Society

**ENG 20a**

Bollywood: Popular Film, Genre, and Society

**ENG 127a**

The Novel in India

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


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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.

**AMST 140b**

The Asian-American Experience

**AMST 142b**

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

**ANTH 129b**

Global, Transnational, and Diasporic Communities

**ANTH 137b**

Gender and the Sacred in Asia

**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

**HS 236a**

International Health Systems

**HSSP 102a**

Global Perspectives on Health

**REL 151a**

The Buddha: His Life and Teachings