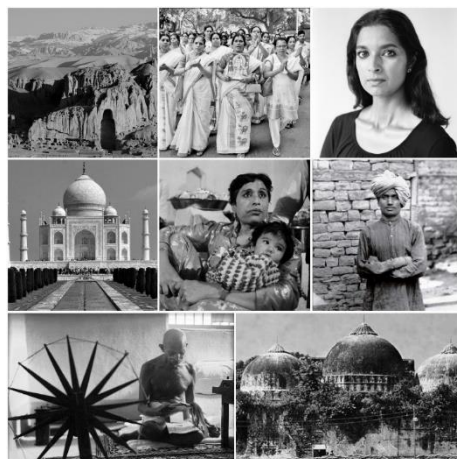


Introduction to South Asia

ANS 302 K / ANT 310L 5

Instructor: Dr. Claire Maes



Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the various historic and contemporary cultures that constitute South Asia. Students will learn about South Asia through a variety of disciplinary lenses. A wide-ranging exploration of the histories, religions, literatures, arts, etc. will acquaint students with the diversity found in South Asia. This course will expose students to various perspectives that complicate the question “What is South Asia?”

Textbook

For this course, you are required to purchase a course packet, a book, and rent two movies online:

1. The course packet can be ordered online from Paradigm Books. Select ‘ANS 302 K / ANT 310 L 5 Maes’ (\$39.00 + \$3.00 shipping) on the following link:
<https://squareup.com/store/paradigmbooks/item/ans-k-ant-l-maes>
2. Anand, Mulk Raj, 2014. *Untouchable*. Penguin Books Ltd: London. (first published by Wishart in 1935).
3. If you do not have Netflix, rent and watch online the movie: *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha* (*Toilet: A Love Story*) by Shree Narayan Singh.
4. If you do not have Amazon Prime, rent and watch online the documentary: *Ask the Sexpert* by Vaishali Sinha.

Suggested textbook: Bose and Jalal, 2018. *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy. Fourth Edition*. Routledge: London and New York.

Grading Policy

Attendance and Participation (10 %)
Documentary and Film reviews (20 %)
Book review (10 %)
Midterm (25%)
Final (25%)
Final Presentation (10 %)

Grading scale: 93–100: A. 90–92: A-. 87–89: B+. 83–86: B. 80–82: B-. 77–79: C+. 73–76: C. 70–72 C- etc.

Class Policies

Come to class on time. During class, **all** electronic devices must be switched off or put on silent mode. Since using a laptop distracts oneself and other students, laptops may not be used in class either.

University Policies

Honor Code: The core values of UT Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Scholastic Dishonesty and Academic Integrity: Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. "Scholastic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act. For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

Documented Disability Statement: UT Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/>.

Religious Observances: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Mental Health Resources: Mental health concerns such as anxiety, stress, and depression are very common among college students. If you are struggling with any of these or other mental health concerns, you are not alone! I encourage you to seek help and to encourage others who need help to do so. There is a 24/7 Crisis Line for UT students: 512-471-CALL (2255). Additionally, the UT Counseling and Mental

Health Center (CMHC) can be reached at 512-471-3515 during regular hours. There are a variety of self-care programs (MindBody Labs, etc.) available to students in addition to more traditional counseling services.

Class Schedule

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus during the semester

UNIT 1: DEMOGRAPHICS AND HISTORY

Week 1: Orientation (January 23)

Week 2: Demographics of South Asia (January 28/30)

2-1: South Asia in the World

2-2: Climate and Environment

Week 3: Modern South Asian History I (February 4/6)

3-1: The Road to Independence

3-2: Voices for Independence

WEEK 4: Modern South Asian History II. (February 11/13)

4-1: The Partition of India and the Creation of Pakistan I

4-2: The Partition of India and the Creation of Pakistan II

UNIT 2: DIASPORA AND NATIONALISM

WEEK 5: South Asian Diaspora (February 18/20)

5-1: International Migration since 1947

5-2: International Migration and Workforce: The case of Nepal

Week 6: Religious and Linguistic Nationalism (February 25/27)

6-1: Religious Nationalism: Ayodhya and the 1992-1993 Riots

6-2: Linguistic Nationalism: The Rise of the Bangladesh Movement

Week 7: Bollywood and Nationalism (March 4/6)

7-1: The Politics of Pop Culture

7-2: Modi's Clean India Mission

UNIT 3: CASTE

Week 8: Caste and Social Discrimination (March 11/13)

8-1: Being Untouchable

8-2: MIDTERM

Bring a bluebook.

*******SPRING BREAK (March 18-22)*******

Week 9: Caste and Social Reformation (March 25/27)

9-1: Socially Engaged Buddhism: Ambedkar and Neo-Buddhism

9-2: Temple Entry: Reformation in Kerala

UNIT 4: SOCIETY, RELIGION, AND ETHICS

Week 10: Rites of Passage (April 1/3)

10-1: Name Giving Ceremonies in South Asian Communities

10-2: Marriage in South Asian Communities

Week 11: Ethics (April 8/10)

11-1: Pashtun Ethics: the Code of Honor

11-2: Jain ethics: the Practice of Non-Violence

Week 12: Challenging Social Conventions (April 15/17)

12-1: Sexual Education in India and Hijras

12-2: The LGBTQ Rights

UNIT 5: MATERIAL ART AND LITERATURE

Week 13: Material Art and Literature (April 22/24)

13-1: Stories set in Stone: Early Buddhist Art at Sanchi (India) and Bamiyan (Afghanistan)

13-2: The Kāmasūtra and Khajuraho (India). The Ramayana and the Janaki Mandir (Nepal).

Week 14: Emblem of Love (April 29/ May 1)

14-1: The Koran and the Taj Mahal (India)

UNIT 6: TOURING SOUTH ASIA

14-2: Group Presentations

Week 15: Touring South Asia (May 6/8)

15-1: Group Presentations

15-2: Group Presentations

Week 16: NO CLASS DAY

Final Exam: DATE/TIME TBD BY UNIVERSITY. There are no make-up exams or alternative arrangements except where necessary for students with documented disabilities. In the latter case, arrangements must be made in advance together with the instructor on or before April 17 (end of Week 12).