

ANTHROPOLOGY OF SOUTH ASIA: ANTH 3334-001: Fall 2014
UH09: TUE/THU 12: 30-1:50

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Office hours by appointment

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With a focus on the Indian subcontinent, this course introduces students to the culture, history and politics of South Asia. Drawing upon anthropological studies and a range of materials, including Bollywood films, music, tourist brochures, advertisements, Gandhi's writings, and South Asian literature, students will gain an increased understanding of the region's past and present.

Required Textbooks

Patel, Reena. 2010. *Working the Night Shift: Women in India's Call Center Industry*. Stanford University Press.

Varia, Kush, 2013. *Bollywood : Gods, Glamour, and Gossip*. Columbia University Press.

All assigned readings are available online via the Central Library

Newspapers and Magazines

<http://india-seminar.com/>

<http://www.littlemag.com/security/index.html>

<http://kindlemag.in/>

Websites

<http://culanth.org/> , <http://www.aii.unimelb.edu.au/podcast>

<http://www.britac.ac.uk/intl/whysouthasia.cfm> , <http://www.lse.ac.uk/asiaResearchCentre/Home.aspx>

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Evaluation

Weekly notes (5 x 13):	65
Essay 1:	12.5
Essay 2:	12.5
Participation:	10
Total	100

Measurable Learning Outcomes

- Identify how politics and history plays out uniquely in South Asia
- Apply theory to analyze sociocultural practices and beliefs in South Asia
- Discuss the way anthropology has developed historically and been used to work on contemporary problems in South Asia
- Anticipate anthropological interventions in the age of a Global South Asia

Attendance If you are absent more than two times for this course, your participation grade will go down for every other day that you are absent (from an A to an A-). It is important to be in class on time and for the entire duration of the class. Tardiness beyond five minutes of class time will count as an absence, after a first warning is given.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study Students should expect to spend nine hours reading, studying, and completing class assignments per week.

Assignment Weekly Notes are due by Thursday 12: 30 PM. These need to be posted on the assigned Blackboard page. Essays will be based on a question that draws upon your readings and required books. Details will be discussed in class and a grading rubric posted on Blackboard.

Late essays is not an option and will be accepted only in cases of emergencies and documented circumstances that prevent you from completing assignments.

Drop Policy Students may drop classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period. After the late registration period, students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the semester. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships <http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>

Academic Integrity All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code: *I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

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I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code. All class assignments must be pledged.

Americans with Disabilities Act The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at <http://www.uta.edu/disability> or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no

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instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

The **course website** hosts a copy of the syllabus, supplementary and optional readings, and external links. If you are unable to access your email or course website after the second week of the semester then please contact UTA's OIT Help Desk at (817) 272-2208.

Week 1: August 18 **Introduction**

Thursday

Week 2: August 25 **Why Study South Asia?**

Tuesday

Snellinger, Amanda and Shneiderman, Sara. "Framing the Issues: The Politics of "Post-conflict". "Fieldsights - Hot Spots, Cultural Anthropology Online, March 24, 2014, <http://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/500-framing-the-issues-the-politics-of-post-conflict>

Snellinger, Amanda and Shneiderman, Sara. "Situating Political Transformation in South Asia." Fieldsights - Hot Spots, Cultural Anthropology Online, March 24, 2014, <http://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/501-situating-political-transformation-in-south-asia>

Choi, Vivian. "Still War, by Other Means." Fieldsights - Hot Spots, Cultural Anthropology Online, March 24, 2014, <http://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/511-still-war-by-other-means>

Thursday

Clark-Deces, Isabelle. 2011. "Introduction" in *A Companion to the Anthropology of India*. New York: Routledge. (Ebook)

Sinha, D. P. and Coon, C. S. (1963), Biraja Sankar Guha 1894–1961. *American Anthropologist* 65: 382–387.

Bhan, Mona. "'Aryan Valley' and the Politics of Race and Religion in Kashmir." Fieldsights - Hot Spots, Cultural Anthropology Online, March 24, 2014, <http://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/504-aryan-valley-and-the-politics-of-race-and-religion-in-kashmir>

Shepherd-Manandhar, Sarah. "Conceptualizing Combatants: The Re-integration of Female Soldiers as a Post-conflict Population." Fieldsights - Hot Spots, Cultural Anthropology Online, March 24, 2014, <http://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/510-conceptualizing-combatants-the-re-integration-of-female-soldiers-as-a-post-conflict-population>

Week 3: September 1 **History and Anthropology of South Asia**

Tuesday

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Dirks, Nicholas. 2003. "Bernard S. Cohn (1928-2003)" *American Anthropologist* 107 (4): 751-753.

Cohn, Bernard. 1961. "The Pasts of an Indian Village." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 3 (3): 241-249.

_____. 1981. "History and Anthropology: Toward a Rapprochement." *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 12 (2): 227-252. (Optional)

Dirks, Nicholas. 1992. "Castes of Mind." *Representations* 37 : 56-78.

Comaroff, Jean and Comaroff, John. "Theory from the South: A Rejoinder." *Fieldsights - Theorizing the Contemporary*, Cultural Anthropology Online, February 25, 2012,
<http://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/273-theory-from-the-south-a-rejoinder>

Hall, Stuart. 1996. "When was the Postcolonial? Thinking at the Limit." In *The Postcolonial Question: Common Skies, Divide Horizons*, edited by Iain Chambers and Lidia Curti. 242-60. New York: Routledge. (Optional)

*Thursday

Cohn, Bernard. 1987. "Representing Authority in Victorian India" in Bernard Cohn, *An Anthropologist among Historians and Other Essays*. New Delhi: OUP.

"Reflecting on 30 Years of Subaltern Studies: Conversations with Profs. Gyanendra Pandey and Partha Chatterjee." *Curated Collections*, Cultural Anthropology Online, December 13, 2012,
http://www.culanth.org/curated_collections/6-subaltern-studies/discussions/14-reflecting-on-30-years-of-subaltern-studies-conversations-with-profs-gyanendra-pandey-and-partha-chatterjee

Stankiewicz, Damien. " Anthropology and Fiction: An Interview with Amitav Ghosh." *Cultural Anthropology* 27, no. 3 (2012): 535-541. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1548-1360.2012.01159.x/pdf>

Week 4: September 8 History and Anthropology of South Asia

Tuesday

Khanduri, Ritu. 2013. "Gandhi and the Satyagraha of Newspaper Cartoons." *Visual Anthropology Review* 29 (1): 1-15.

Thursday

Monsutti, Alessandro. 2013. "Anthropologizing Afghanistan." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 42: 269-85.

Biehl, Joao, and Ramah McKay. 2012. "Ethnography as Political Critique." *Anthropological Quarterly* 85, no. 4: 1209-27. (Optional)

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Week 5 : September 15 Identity Politics: Caste

Tuesday

Guilmoto, Christopher Z. *Demography for Anthropologists: Population, Castes and Classes in A Companion to the Anthropology of India*. New York: Routledge. (Ebook).

Thursday

Gupta, Dipankar. 2005. "Caste Today: The Relevance of a Phenomenological Approach." *India International Center Quarterly* 32 (1): 138-153.

Dandekar, Ajay. 2009. "Disenfranchised by History"

<http://indianfolklore.org/journals/index.php/Mukt/article/viewFile/742/944>

Guest speaker, Dr. Ajay Dandekar, Shiv Nadar University

Week 6: September 22 Identity Politics: Class

Tuesday

Alter, Joseph. "Yoga, Modernity, and the Middle Class: Locating the Body in a World of Desire." in *A Companion to the Anthropology of India*. New York: Routledge. (Ebook).

Thursday

Film and Guest speaker

Week 7: September 29 Identity Politics: Religion

Tuesday

Pollock, Sheldon. "Religion in South Asia." *American Anthropological Review*

Guest speaker, Dr. Ranjeeta Dutta, Jamia Millia Islamia

Thursday

Asad, Talal (1990), *Ethnography, Literature, and Politics: Some Readings and Uses of Salman Rushdie's The Satanic Verses*. *Cultural Anthropology*, 5: 239-69.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1525/can.1990.5.3.02a00010/pdf>

Week 8: October 6 Identity Politics: Gender

Dewey, S. (2009), "'Dear Dr. Kothari ...': Sexuality, Violence against Women, and the Parallel Public Sphere in India." *American Ethnologist*, 36: 124-139.

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Thursday

*Reena Patel, *Working the Night Shift: Women in India's Call Center Industry*
<http://www.working-the-nightshift.com/>

Week 9: October 13 **Modernity**

Tuesday

Reena Patel, *Working the Night Shift: Women in India's Call Center Industry*
<http://www.working-the-nightshift.com/>

Thursday

Appadurai, Arjun. 1995. "Playing with Modernity: The Decolonization of Cricket." In Breckenridge, C. and A. Appadurai eds. *Consuming Modernity Public Culture in a South Asian World* (Ebook).

Gandhi, M. K. Hind Swaraj <http://www.mkgandhi.org/hindswaraj/hindswaraj.htm>

Gandhi and Contemporary Politics: Guest speaker, Mr. Annamalai, Director, Gandhi Museum

Week 10: October 20 **Modernity and Social Movements**

Tuesday

Dave, Naisargi. "Witness: Humans, Animals, and the Politics of Becoming." *Cultural Anthropology* 29, no. 3 (2014): 433-456. <http://dx.doi.org/10.14506/ca29.3.01>

*Ogura, Kiyoko. 2008. *Seeking State Power: The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)*. Berlin: Berghof Research Centre. (Optional)

*Essay 1 due in class

Thursday

Chua, Jocelyn Lim. "Making Time for the Children: Self-Temporalization and the Cultivation of the Antisocial Subject in South India." *Cultural Anthropology* 26, no. 1 (2011): 112-137.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1548-1360.2010.01082.x/pdf>

Week 11: October 27 **Global South Asia: Media**

Tuesday

Keeler, Ward. 2009. "What is Burmese about Burmese Rap." *American Ethnologist* 36 (1): 2-19

Thursday

Brazeal, Brian. 2012. Indian Religions in the Global Emerald Trade: A Photo Essay – *Visual Anthropology Review*, 28 (2): 120-132.

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Week 12: November 3 Media

*Tuesday

Varia Kush, 2012. *Bollywood : Gods, Glamour, and Gossip*.

Thursday

Bollywood : Gods, Glamour, and Gossip.

Week 13: November 10 Democracy, Development and Poverty

Tuesday

Larson, Anna. September 2009. "Toward an Afghan Democracy?: Exploring Perceptions of Democratisation in Afghanistan." Kabul: Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit.

Thursday

Gupta, Akhil. Introduction: "Poverty as Biopolitics" in *Red Tape*. Durham: Duke University Press (Ebook)

Week 14: November 17 Democracy, Development and Poverty

Tuesday

Zurick, D. (2006), Gross National Happiness and Environmental Status in Bhutan. *Geographical Review*, 96: 657–681

Thursday

Leve, Lauren. 2009. "Women's Empowerment and Rural Revolution: Rethinking 'Failed Development'." *Dialectical Anthropology* 33: 345–63.

Week 15: November 24 Democracy, Development and Poverty

Tuesday

Tamang, Seira, and Carmen Malena. 2011. "The Political Economy of Social Accountability in Nepal." Kathmandu, Nepal: The World Bank.

*Thursday: Thanksgiving Holidays

Week 16: December 01

Tuesday: Course overview

*Essay 2 due on Blackboard

*Thursday: **American Anthropological Association Meetings**