South Asian Studies Summer Reading List, Compiled by Professor Mou Banerjee, UW-Madison (May 2020)

Non-Fiction:

The Argumentative Indian - Amartya Sen
India after Gandhi, by Ramachandra Guha
City of Djinns/ White Mughals/ The Anarchy - William Dalrymple
Tamil – David Shulman
Three Ways to Be Alien: Travails and Encounters in the Early Modern World – Sanjay Subrahmanyan
Crooked Stalks – Anand Pandian
Unfinished Gestures – Davesh Soneji
Crossing the Bay of Bengal, by Sunil Amrith
India in the Persianate Age, by Richard Eaton
Remnants of a Separation, by Aanchal Malhotra
The Courtesan, the Mahatma and the Italian Brahmin, by Manu Pillai
The Farthest Field, by Raghu Karnad
India, Empire, and First World War Culture: Writings, Images, and Songs, by Santanu Das
Behind the Beautiful Forevers, by Katherine Boo
The Dreamers, by Snigdha Punam
A Southern Music, by TM Krishna
A hidden history of Burma - Thant Myint U
Capital: The Eruption of Delhi – Rana Dasgupta
The Empire of Cotton, by Sven Beckert
Forgotten Wars/ Forgotten Armies, by C.A.Bayly and Tim Harper
Underground Asia: Global Revolutionaries and the Assault on Empire – Tim Harper
Empire and Information, by C.A.Bayly
Nationalisation of Hindu Traditions, by Vasudha Dalmia.
A Free Man, by Aman Sethi
Governing Islam – Julia Stephens
A Local History of Global Capital – Tariq Omar Ali
Fiction:

The Essential Tagore - edited by Fakhrul Alam, et al.
The God of Small Things/The Ministry of Utmost Happiness - Arundhati Roy
The Heat and Dust - Ruth Prawar Jhavwala
In Custody - Anita Desai
Nectar in a Sieve - Kamala Markendaya
Love among the Bookshelves - Ruskin Bond
Swami and Friends - R.K. Narayan
The Sun that Rose from the Earth - Shamsur Rahman Faruqi
A Fine Balance - Rohinton Mistry
The Shadow Lines/ The Glass Palace/ The Ibis Trilogy - Amitabh Ghose
The Interpreter of Maladies - Jhumpa Lahiri
A Gujarat here, a Gujarat there - Krishna Sobti, trans. Daisy Rockwell
Shame - Salman Rushdie
Suitable Boy - Vikram Seth
Freedom at Midnight - Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre
The Wandering Falcon - Jamil Ahmed
The Reluctant Fundamentalist - Mohsin Hamid (Also made into a great film)
In other rooms other wonders - Daniyal Mueenuddin
Broken Verses/ Home Fires - Kamila Shamsie
A Case of Exploding Mangoes - Mohammed Hanif
Sunlight on a Broken Column - Attia Hosain
Stars from Another Sky: The Bombay Film World of the 1940s - Sadat Hasan Manto tr. by Khalid Hasan.
Mottled Dawn - Sadat Hasan Manto, introduction by Daniyal Mueenuddin
Reef - Romesh Gunasekara
Anil's Ghost - Michael Ondaatje
The Story of a Brief Marriage - Anuk Arudpragasam
The Island of a Thousand Mirrors - Nayomi Munaweera.
The Kite Runner/ A Thousand Splendid Suns - Khaled Hosseini
Love Marriage - VV Ganeshananthan
Collected Plays, Vol. 1 and 2 – Mahesh Dattani

**Chick Lit/Detective Fiction:**

The Adventures of Feluda - Satyajit Ray
The Inspector Ghote Mysteries - HRF Keating
As the Day Darkens - Ambai
The Zoya Factor/The Battle for Bittora - Anuja Chauhan
Sujata Massey/Abir Mukherjee/Vaseem Khan/ Tarquin Hall (Vish Puri series)/Kishwar Desai

**Graphic Novels:**

The Sadhu by Gotham Chopra and Jeevan Kang
Delhi Calm by Vishwajyoti Ghosh
Odayan by Suhas Sundar and Deepak Sharma
Ramayan 3392 A.D.
Angry Maushi by Abhijeet Kini
Kari/Adi Parva/Sauptik/Aranyaka by Amruta Patil
Corridor/The Barn Owl's Wondrous Capers by Sarnath Banerjee
Munnu: A Boy From Kashmir - Novel by Malik Sajad

**Poetry:**

Says Tuka: trans. Dilip Chitre
I, Lalla: trans. Ranjit Hoskote
Very close to pleasure, there's a sick cat (Shakti Chattopadhyay): trans. Arunava Sinha
Jejuri: by Arun Kolatkar
Dangerlog/ A necklace of Skulls: Eunice De Souza
The Interior Landscape: Love Poems from a Classical Tamil Anthology – trans. A.K. Ramanujan

Collected Poems: Arvind Krishna Mehrotra

Summer in Calcutta: Kamala Surraya Das

Sycorax: Suniti Namjoshi.

**Other Suggestions:**

Upstairs Wife: An intimate history of Pakistan – Rafia Zakaria

Mr and Mrs Jinnah: The Marriage that shook India – Sheela Reddy

Goodbye Freddie Mercury – Nadia Akbar

In my Mother’s House – Sharika Thiranagama

The incomplete Thombu – T. Shanathanan

This Divided Island – Samanth Subramaniam

The Pity of Partition – Ayesha Jalal

Discovery of India – Jawaharlal Nehru

“In the Shadow of the Crescent Moon” and “Runaways”, both by Fatima Bhutto.


Annie Ali Khan’s wondrous "Sita under the Crescent Moon"

Omparakash Valmiki’s “Joothan”

Ant Among Elephants – Sujatha Gidla

Coolie Woman – Gauitra Bahadur

Tharu and Lalitha’s “Women’s Writing in India”

When I hit you – Meena Kandaswamy

Perumal Murugan’s “One Part Woman”

Begum Rokeya Hussain’s “Sultana’s Dream”

Raga'n' Josh/ Tales of Innocents, Musicians and Bureaucrats – Sheila Dhar

The Collaborator/ The Book of Gold Leaves – Mirza Waheed

Nayanika Banerjee's 'The Spectral Wound'

'Do you remember Kunan Poshpora' - Essar Batool, Ifrah Butt, Munaza Rashid, Natasha Rather and Samreena Mushtaq
Nepal papers from Zubaan on Impunity
House of Snow Anthology on Nepal.
Vazira Yaccobali Zamindar’s The Long Partition
Siddhartha Gigoo’s Garden of Solitude (For Kashmir)
River of Fire, Aag ka Dariya by Qurratulain Hyder
Singing Gandhi's India: Music & Sonic Nationalism, Lakshmi Subramanian
The Best Asian Speculative Fiction, ed. Rajat Chaudhuri
The Gollancz Book of South Asian Science Fiction ed. Tarun Saint
Requiem in Raga Janaki – Neelum Saran Gaur
The Skull of Alum Bheg – Kim Ati Wagner