Courses on South Asia
Spring Semester 2024
Compiled by the Center for South Asia
Updated December 5, 2023

*Indicates that a course may contain at least 25% South Asia content
All courses in person unless indicated otherwise

AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

350 World Hunger and Malnutrition
3cr. Foltz, Jeremy
Hunger and poverty in developing countries and the United States. Topics include: nutrition and health, population, food production and availability, and income distribution and employment.

374 Growth and Development of Nations in the Global Economy
3cr. Gimpelson, Vladimir
This course explores the roles of markets, states, and civil institutions, using economic theory, computer simulations, and historical experience to better understand the forces that shape the wealth and well-being of nations and people around the world.

ANTHROPOLOGY

102 Archaeology and the Prehistoric World
3cr. Schroeder, Sissel
Introduction to the ancient world from origins of human culture to the beginnings of written history as revealed by archaeological research at great sites and ruins around the globe. Archaeological analyses of important sites as case studies to illustrate concepts and techniques used by archaeologists in their efforts to understand the diversity of the human past.

310 Archaeology of Gender and Tech
3cr. Kenoyer, Jonathan
Selected areas, periods or problems in archaeology.

322 The Origins of Civilization
3cr. Kim, Nam
Global archaeological survey of the origins of pristine civilizations beginning with the development of food production and ending with the emergence of the world’s first civilizations. Focus of attention: Near East, Egypt, the Indus Valley, North China, Mesoamerica, and Peru.

ART HISTORY

103 Passage Through India
3cr. Chopra, Preeti
Offers an introduction to world art by taking a thematic approach. Topics will center around art and architecture produced in a variety of media, from a wide time span, and a range of cultural and geographic points of origin.

373 Great Cities of Islam
3cr. Pruitt, Jennifer
A comparative study of the foundation and development of five great cities in the history of Islam: Cairo, Istanbul, Delhi, Mecca, and Isfahan. Architectural projects, ornamental idioms, and changes to the urban plan are studied from aesthetic and cultural perspectives. Integrates historical and religious studies to highlight the shifting nature of Islamic culture, from the tenth century CE to the present.

428 Visual Cultures of India
3cr. Chopra, Preeti
Concentrates on image complexes (art, photography, and cinema) and visual environments (architecture, urban planning, and public rituals) of India; examination of visual culture through thematic issues such as,
ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

101 Introduction to Asian American Studies
3cr. Jew, Victor
Introduction to the historical, sociological, anthropological, political, and cultural study of Americans of Asian ancestry.

121 Asian American Movement
3cr. Choy, Peggy
Techniques of exercises and movement forms derived from several Asian cultures as taught in the United States. Studied in the context of the construction and expression of ethnic and cultural identity.

ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

268 Tibetan Cultures and Traditions
3cr. Khedup, Jampa

308 Introduction to Buddhism
3-4cr. Lehrer, Tyler
Introduction to a wide variety of ancient Tibetan cultural beliefs, practices and motifs that are practiced to this day. Examines topics such as: gender roles and stereotypes in Tibetan society; folk beliefs and practices; astrology, divination, dream interpretation and related issues; art, music and theater; traditional Tibetan medicine and healing practices; and finally, the varied and extensive religious traditions of Tibet in their cultural manifestations. Examines central themes and inquiries into the ways it contributes to-or contests-a cultural universe that has direct impact on Tibetan lives.

405 Gods and Goddesses of South Asia
3cr. Buhnemann, Gudrun
Introduces some of the most important deities of South Asia through visual representation, mythical narratives and rituals of worship.

Topics include the development of iconographic forms and concepts, masculine and feminine aspects of the divine, the belief in human embodiments of divinities, the phenomenon of possession, modes of domestic and public worship and the symbolism of the temple structure.

460 The History of Yoga
3cr. Buhnemann, Gudrun
Explores the history of Yoga techniques from the ancient to the modern period.

630 Jainism & Environmental Ethics
3cr. Chase, Miki
Study of literature, drama, and film produced by authors of South Asian origin in Europe, North America, and the Caribbean. Course considers theories of diaspora, changing patterns of subcontinental migration, and relation of diasporic forms to the cultures of origin and adoption.

ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES – LANGUAGE COURSES

122 Second Semester Pashto
4cr. Barnard, Erlin

134 Second Semester Hindi
4cr. Chowdhary, Zara

136 Second Semester Modern Tibetan
4cr. Khedup, Jampa

138 Second Semester Persian
4cr. Mirsharifi, Fatemehsadat

140 Second Semester Urdu
4cr. Asif, Muhammad

234 Fourth Semester Hindi
4cr. Chowdhary, Zara

236 Fourth Semester Modern Tibetan
4cr. Khedup, Jampa
238 Fourth Semester Persian  
4cr. Mirsharifi, Fatemehsadat

240 Fourth Semester Urdu  
4cr. Barnard, Erlin

336 Sixth Semester Tibetan  
4cr. Khedup, Jampa

338 Sixth Semester Persian  
4cr. Mirsharifi, Fatemehsadat

340 Sixth Semester Urdu  
4cr. Asif, Muhammad

560 Protest Poetry of South Asia  
4cr. Chowdhary, Zara  
Reinforces the skills of reading various genres of Asian Languages writings.

Sections available for Hindi, Modern Tibetan, Persian, and Urdu for the following:

356 Second Semester Asian Languages for Graduate Students, 4cr.

358 Fourth Semester Asian Languages for Graduate Students, 4cr.

GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES

535 Women’s Global Health and Human Rights  
3cr. Munazir, Shahana  
(cross listed with INTERNATIONAL STUDIES)

GEOGRAPHY

340 World Regions in Global Context  
3cr. Olds, Kristopher  
Survey of development and change within each of the world’s regions (e.g., Africa, Southeast Asia). Attention devoted to environment and society; history, economy, and demographic change; culture and politics; future challenges; key actors.

HISTORY

308 Introduction to Buddhism  
3-4cr. Lehrer, Tyler  
(cross listed with ALC, RELIGIOUS STUDIES)

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

200 International Business  
3cr. Tuli, Sachin  
Technology, privatization, deregulation and other government policies, and growth of a mass culture are among the factors that drive global business today. Introduction to the key concepts necessary to understand the functioning of global markets and the inherent issues managers face in planning and executing international business strategies for products, services and investments.

765 Business in the Global Economy  
2cr. Tuli, Sachin  
Exploration of advanced subject areas possibly to be introduced into the business curriculum.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

320 Contemporary Issues: Interdisciplinary Approaches to South Asian Studies  
1cr. Beckham, Sarah

374 Sports in South Asia  
3cr. Asif, Muhammad  
The history and contemporary practice of sports in South Asia shows that sports are much more than just games. This course will begin with how traditional sports such as Wrestling, Kabaddi, Polo, Tent Pegging etc. have been played in South Asia and what meanings people attached to those traditional sports. Secondly the course will focus on contemporary sports and the influence of Western sports on South Asia. The course will also discuss some basic rules and regulations for contemporary sports like cricket, field hockey and talk about the performance of
South Asian countries in international sporting events like Olympics, World Cup etc. Thirdly, the course will focus on the sporting activities and competitions held in South Asian societies, how does that shape people’s behavior, and how does it compare to Western societies? The aim of this course is not only to build understanding of various sports in South Asia, but also to gain new perspectives on our own society through the shared activity of sports.

535 Women’s Global Health and Human Rights
3cr. Alonso, Araceli
A human rights approach to global women’s health to provide an overview of health issues within the context of a woman's life cycle. It will pay special attention to the socio-cultural and economic factors that play a role in determining women’s access to quality basic health care.