

# AAS 201 INTRODUCTION TO THE CIVILIZATION OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

Fall 2017

Professor S.N. Sridhar

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Office Hours: Tue, Th 1:00 - 2:20 pm  
and by appointment via email

Teaching Assistant

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**Textbook and Other Readings:** The primary text for the course is *Ananya: A Portrait of India*, edited by S.N. Sridhar and Nirmal K. Mattoo, New York: Association of Indians in America, 1997. The textbook for the course is NOT available from the campus bookstore. Visit the Center for India Studies (East 5350 Library) for copies.

**Note:** Class lectures, including lectures by Guest Speakers, together with video documentaries, PowerPoint presentations other audio-visual materials presented in class, many but not all of which will be posted on Blackboard under “Course Documents” soon after the class, are regarded as integral elements of the course and will figure substantially in the quizzes and exams.

## Learning Outcomes for AAS 201

- By the end of the course, students will be able to state the most important basic facts about the countries of South Asia, such as population, climate, political structure, cultural and socio-economic diversity, and developmental issues.
- By the end of the course, students will be able to identify the most important historical events, religions, languages, literary classics, social groups, social, religious, political and cultural movements, and socio-economic issues facing India/South Asia.
- By the end of the course, students will be able to identify India’s contributions to world civilization in areas such as the sciences, arts and architecture, philosophy, spirituality, psychology, politics, economics, and so on.
- By the end of the course, students will be able to read basic material relating to India/South Asia using appropriate reference works, where necessary.
- By the end of the course, students will be able to recognize and correct gross stereotypes in media and popular perceptions and representations of this area
- By the end of this course, students will be able to work cooperatively in a small group environment.

## TENTATIVE SYLLABUS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

- Aug 29- Sep 7 **Orientation:** Learning objectives, course requirements (exams, quizzes, extra credit opportunities), grading and attendance policies and procedures, textbooks and other details.
- Introduction:** Why Study India? Place of India in World History and Civilization: Cultural Heritage, Contribution to Human Knowledge and Welfare; Contemporary Significance; How India has been and is studied – Philology, Indology, Orientalism, South Asian Studies and India Studies. The Idea of India. Contestations. Reading: Ananya Chapter 1 (Intro).
- Sept 12, 14 **The Indus Civilization.** Reading: Ananya Ch 2 (Rao), On-line articles.
- Sept 19, 21 **Hinduism, Sanskrit, the Vedas and Upanishads**  
 a. The Vedas and their importance in Indian culture: The four Vedas: their structure, content, context, functions; Vedic gods, mythology, rituals, literary, cultural and scientific value; modes of transmission of texts; the six ancillary systems of knowledge; Ancient Indian Educational Systems; the Vedic Aryans and theories of their origin: the Aryan Migration. The Sanskrit Language; the Indo-European Hypothesis;  
 b. The Upanishads: their structure and content. Significance as foundation of Indian Philosophy: The Katha Upanishad. Readings: Ananya: Ch. 6 The Upanishads by Hiriyanna; Kathopanishad (BB);
- Sept 26, 28 **Buddhism, Jainism, the Mauryan, Kushana, and Gupta Empires** The Buddha; Mahavira; Yoga as philosophy and psychology. Ashoka and the Mauryan Empire. Kautilya's *Artha Shastra*. Kushana and Gupta Empire (Classical India); Chola Empire. Reading: Ch. 10 in Ananya by Chapple
- Oct 3, 5 **Classical Hinduism.**  
 Basic Texts: The Ramayana, the Mahabharata, and the Bhagavad Gita. Recommended Readings: *The Mahabharata*, tr by R.K. Narayan; *The Bhagavadgita* by translated by Easwaran. Bhagavadgita Ch. 9 in Ananya by M. Hiriyanna. Hindu Rituals and Customs: Gods and goddesses; temples and gurus; festivals; rituals; world-view
- Oct 10, 12 **Language, Communication, and Cultural Identity in South Asia:**  
 a. Language and Scripts. Major Regional Languages and Regional Cultures; Reading: Ch 26 in Ananya by B. Kachru;  
 b. History of languages – Language Families;  
 c. Patterns of Communication in India: Multilingualism and language contact, borrowing, convergence; emergence of mixed languages: Urdu, Indian English  
 d. Major Lingua Francas: Sanskrit, Hindi-Urdu, English  
 f. Language, Identity, and politics – India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka. Linguistic Reorganization of India; Language and modernization and globalization
- Oct 17, 19 **Literatures of India**

- a. The Pan-Indian, Literatures: The Great Epics (The Ramayana & The Mahabharata) Sanskrit Drama (Kalidasa) Readings: A.L. Basham, Excerpt from “The Wonder that Was India.” Ananya, Ch 27 “Sanskrit Kavya Literature,” by K. Krishnamoorthy;  
b. Regional Language (Bhasha) Literatures of India: Short Stories in Kannada. Readings: TBA

- Oct 24, 26 **India’s Social and Cultural Traditions**  
a. Joint Family, Kinship, Arranged Marriage, Roles of men and women, the Dharma Shastras (Codes of Ethics)  
b. The Caste System – ideology, practice, Readings: Article by Lannoy (BB); Ch 14 in Ananya by M.N. Srinivas.  
c. Caste-based discrimination, reform, movements for social justice: Untouchability and Affirmative Action Program. Caste as a political force in modern India. Ch. 15 in Ananya by Kesavan
- Oct 31 Midterm Exam
- Nov 2, 7 **India’s Artistic Traditions I: Architecture and Sculpture:** The Hindu Temple; Sculpture; Buddhist and Jain Sculpture; Chola and Hoysala Art and Architecture. Vijayanagar Art and architecture. Readings: Chapters by R.S. Sharma, Nalini Rao in Ananya.
- India’s Artistic Traditions II: Performing Arts:** Classical Music traditions – Hindustani and Carnatik music; Classical Dance Traditions; Indian Drama and Theatre; Indian Cinema – Art Cinema and Bollywood, and Regional Cinema Reading: Chapter by Girish Karnad, Others TBA. Video: excerpts from Satyajit Ray’s Apur Sansar; contemporary film.
- Nov 9, 14 **Islamic Rule and Its Impact** – Chs 3 by Gopal; Islam; Slave Dynasty; Ch. 38 by Sheila McDonough. Islamic Architecture. Syncretism: The Bhakti Movement and Sufism (Dalrymple, BB).  
The Mughal Empire – Ch 5 in Ananya by Irfan Habib; Sufism: Article by William Dalrymple (TBA). Resistance: The Vijayanagar Empire, Shivaji and the Maratha Empire  
Partition of Muslim Identity
- Nov 16 **Science in India:** Surgery, Linguistics, Technology, others Ch. 19: Science in Ancient India (Subhash Kak), Ch. 20: Science and Technology in India (M.A. Pai), and This Time, A Tryst with Technology (V.S. Arunachalam)
- Nov 21,28 **European Colonial Rule and Its Impact** –Ch. 5 in Ananya by Bhattacharya. Portuguese, French, and British competition. East India Company. Economic policies. Education policies. Administrative structure. Political policies. The “Sepoy Mutiny” and British imperial rule. Impact in shaping modern India. The Independence Movement: Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Jinnah; “The Idea of India” and “The Idea of Pakistan.” Independence and Partition. Ch. 36 by Narasimhaiah. Reading: Rob Chs. 7, 8, and 9.
- Nov 30, **India/S. Asia after Independence)** Post-Independence South Asia; Three revolutions – Economic, Political, and Social Justice. World’s largest democracy and Development: Issues and Challenges. The Green Revolution. Socialism. Economic Librarlization. IT

revolution. Indian as an emerging economic power. The formation of Bangladesh. Nepal: Ethnic Identity, Conflicts, Nationalism, and Political, Religious, and Socio-Economic Movements. Readings: Nehru, Amartya Sen, and others Reading: Rob Ch. 10.

Dec 5 Contemporary S. Asia - India as a Software Giant; Role in Global Research and Development; As an Enormous Market; Issues of Economic Development -- Women, Minorities, Poverty, Inequality, Rural development; Tradition and Modernity, Secularism and Religious Identity; Education, Civil Rights and Religious Loyalties; Freedoms, Security, National Integrity; India and Globalization. Economic Progress and Its Discontents; New Government in Delhi - Implications and Speculations. Ch. 16 by Hardgrave; V.S. Naipaul "A Million Mutinies Now" and other articles TBA.

**Dec 15 Final Exam (11:15 - 1:45)**

#### GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	35%
Project paper	20%
Pop Quizzes	15% (Dates not announced)

**CAMPUS RESOURCES:** **The Mattoo Center for India Studies**, located at East 5350, Melville Library (left of the elevator on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor) features many resources to support the study of India. It has a fine reference library, current magazines, journals, and newspapers, recent publications, a collection of video documentaries, etc. It conducts lectures, seminars, conferences; it supports activities of student organizations; it offers scholarships and internships. It organizes a Study Abroad program in India; It also undertakes many Outreach activities related to India/South Asia. See [www.stonybrook.edu/india](http://www.stonybrook.edu/india) for details. Email address: [indiastudies@stonybrook.edu](mailto:indiastudies@stonybrook.edu). Contact Ms. Frances Kelly at 632-9642.

**BLACKBOARD:** You can access class information on-line at: <http://blackboard.sunysb.edu>. If you used Blackboard during the previous semester, your login information (Username and Password) has not changed. If you have never used Stony Brook's Blackboard system, your initial password is your SOLAR ID#. Your username is the same as your Stony Brook (Sparky) username, which is generally your first initial and the first 7 letters of your last name.

For help or more information see: <http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/helpdesk/docs/blackboard/bbstudent.php>  
For problems logging in, go to the helpdesk in the Main Library SINC Site or the Union SINC Site, you can also call: 631-632-9602 or e-mail: [helpme@ic.sunysb.edu](mailto:helpme@ic.sunysb.edu)

**DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS) STATEMENT:** If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services (631) 632-6748 or <http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dss/>. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities/asp>.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:** Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instance of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

**CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT:** Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits students' ability to learn.

**ATTENDANCE:** Credit for attendance is included in the Pop Quiz requirement. Pop quizzes are given randomly and therefore it is in your interest to make sure that you don't miss any class. No make-up exams or quizzes will be given, except for extraordinary medical reasons and when supported by documentary proof. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in automatic lowering of grade.

*Wish you an enjoyable and productive semester!*