

# AAS 201 INTRODUCTION TO THE CIVILIZATION OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

Fall 2018

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Office Hours: Mon, Wed 10 am - 11 am  
and other times by appointment via email

**Textbook and Other Readings:** The primary readings for the course will consist of an anthology of articles on various topics which will be **posted on Blackboard**. Some of the articles will come from what used to be the text for this course is *Ananya: A Portrait of India*, edited by S.N. Sridhar and Nirmal K. Mattoo, New York: Association of Indians in America, 1997, which is now out of print. (A limited number of copies are available from the Center for India Studies, East 5350 Library) The textbook for the course is **NOT** available from the campus bookstore.

**Note:** Many but not all the class lecture outlines, including lectures by guest speakers, together with video documentaries, PowerPoint presentation files, and other audio-visual materials presented in class will be posted on **Blackboard** under “**Course Documents**” before or soon after the class. These 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 India/South Asia and Indian/South Asian Americans.
- By the end of this course, students will be able to work cooperatively in a small group environment.

## TENTATIVE SYLLABUS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

- Aug 27      **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). Outline of Historical Periods
- Sept 3      **The Indus Civilization.** Reading: On-line articles (BB).
- Sept 7      **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;  
 b. The Upanishads: their structure and content. Significance as foundation of Indian Philosophy: Isha Upanishad, The Katha Upanishad. Readings: Ananya: Ch. 6 The Upanishads by Hiriyanna; Kathopanishad (BB);  
 c. the Vedic Aryans and theories of their origin: the Aryan Migration. The Sanskrit Language; the Indo-European Hypothesis The Importance of Sanskrit
- Sept 17      **Buddhism, Jainism, the Mauryan, Kushana, and Gupta Empires** The Buddha; Mahavira; Reading: Ch. 10 in Ananya by Chapple. Yoga as philosophy and psychology. Ashoka and the Mauryan Empire. Kautilya's *Artha Shastra*. Shunga, Kushana and Gupta Empire (Classical India); Chola Empire.
- Sept 24      **Classical Hinduism:** The Epics, Puranas, Indian Mythology: Gods and Goddesses, Pan-Indian, Regional and Local  
 Basic Texts: The Ramayana, the Mahabharata, and the Bhagavad Gita. Recommended Readings: *The Mahabharata*, tr by R.K. Narayan; *The Bhagavadgita* by translated by H. Easwaran. Bhagavadgita Ch. 9 in *Ananya* by M. Hiriyanna. Hindu Rituals and Customs: Gods and goddesses; temples and gurus; festivals; rituals; world-view (BB)
- Oct 1      **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  
 e. Language, Identity, and politics – India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka. Linguistic Reorganization of India; Language and modernization and globalization

- Oct 8 **Literatures of India**  
**Monday, Oct 8: No classes in session**  
 a. Sanskrit Literature other than the epics: 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: Selections from Kannada, Tamil, Hindi – *Kumaravyasa Bharata* by S.N. Sridhar; Short Stories by *Poems of Love and War* Premchand, Manto, Tagore, Mahadeva, others; *Speaking of Shiva* by A.K. Ramanujan; by A.K. Ramanujan; *Ramcharimanas* by Philip Lutgendorf, and others.
- Oct 15 **MIDTERM EXAM**
- 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. Caste and the Indian Constitution
- Oct 22 **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.
- Oct 29 **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 5 **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 12 **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 19 **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.

Wed, Nov. 21, Fri Nov 23: Thanksgiving break – no classes in session

- Nov 26 **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 Liberalization. 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 3 **Contemporary India and 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; Dynamism of modern Indian society and culture; 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 10 Last day of classes

**DEC 13 (TH) FINAL EXAM 8:30 – 11 PM**

#### GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	35%
Project paper	20%
Pop Quizzes/Response papers	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 [frances.kelley@stonybrook.edu](mailto:frances.kelley@stonybrook.edu) or call 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!*