South Asian Studies

The major in South Asian studies is administered by the Asian Studies Committee: Professors Gabriel (economics; on leave Fall 2015), Hachiyangi (art), Hashmi (international relations), Khory (politics), J. Peterson (Indian literature, cultural history, and Hinduism; on leave Spring 2016), Nemoto (Japanese language and linguistics), Roth (anthropology), Sinha (art history), Wang (Chinese language and literature; on leave 2015–16); Associate Professors Chen (politics), Datla (history), Mrozik (religion; on leave Spring 2016), Steinfels (religion); Assistant Professor Babul (anthropology; on leave 2015–16); Lecturers Xu (Chinese) and Yan (Chinese); Teaching Associate Kao (Chinese); Five College Assistant Professor Shaiti (history; on leave 2015–16); Five College Senior Lecturer Brown (Japanese); Five College Lecturers Arafah (Arabic), Massey (Korean), Park (Korean); Visiting Lecturer Lee (history).

Overview

One of four interdisciplinary majors offered by the Asian Studies Program, South Asian studies allows students to specialize in the history, languages, cultures, and politics of South Asia. Our students are expected to incorporate the humanities and the social sciences fully into their studies with classes at Mount Holyoke and the other colleges in the Five College Consortium. Complementing course work at Mount Holyoke are extracurricular activities and study abroad programs that broaden and deepen students' understanding of Asia.

On campus, our students experience regional culture at many levels, including language tables and clubs, guest lectures, performing and visual arts, film, festivals, and regional cuisine. These activities are often initiated by and benefit greatly from the diverse student population of Mount Holyoke and particularly the large numbers of students from Asian countries or with an Asian background.

Most of our students spend a semester or a summer in one of the many Mount Holyoke College-approved South Asian study abroad programs.

South Asian studies majors and minors graduate to pursue careers in fields as varied as education, business, NGOs, journalism, the arts, government service, and graduate study.

Contact Info

Kristin McMillan, senior administrative assistant
Sohail Hashmi, chair
Website: http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/asiangrad/

Requirements for the Major

Credits

A minimum of 40 credits of course work on South Asia. Any course that devotes 50 percent or more of its substance to South Asian countries, peoples, or issues may count toward the major. Majors are strongly encouraged, but not required, to pursue study of a South Asian classical or modern language through the Five College Mentored Language Program, summer study, or study abroad. Students may count up to 4 credits toward the major for studying a South Asian language through the Five College Mentored Language Program. One course (4 credits) on South Asian diasporas may count toward the major. Requirements for the major are:

Courses

- One course (4 credits) in modern South Asian history (e.g., History 124, Modern South Asia) and one course (4 credits) on pre-modern and/or early modern South Asia (c. 3000 BCE to 1700 CE) (e.g., Art History 263, Arts of India; Asian Studies 254, Great Epics of India; Asian Studies 167, Introduction to Hinduism; or Religion 263, Introduction to Buddhism).

- Eight elective courses (32 credits):
  - Two (8 credits) must be from Group One: Humanities (history, religion, philosophy, literature, language, the arts, and interdisciplinary courses in these areas). In order to count toward the major, studio art or performance courses must be supplemented with analytical written work.
  - One (4 credits) must be from Group Two: Social Science (anthropology, economics, geography, international relations, linguistics, politics, sociology, and interdisciplinary courses in these areas).
  - At least three courses (12 credits) must be 300-level courses. A course that is taught outside of Mount Holyoke must be approved by the chair of the Asian Studies Program to count as a 300-level course. One of the three 300-level courses must be a non-language course.

Related Courses

Most South Asian studies courses at Mount Holyoke are listed below, but students should also consult the catalogue entries or websites of other departments, including art history, history, international relations, politics, and religion. South Asian Studies majors should also plan to use the rich resources of the Five College Consortium in selecting their courses (listings are available through the Five College or individual college websites).

Please consult the chair of the Asian Studies Committee for guidelines regarding Asian languages not taught in the Five Colleges.

Courses Counting toward the Major, 2015-16

Art History

105 Arts of Asia
263 Arts of India
290BC Issues in Art History: 'Bollywood: A Cinema of Interruptions'
360BC Seminar in Asian Art: 'Bollywood: A Cinema of Interruptions'
360CG Seminar in Asian Art: ‘Curating Global Contemporary Art’

Asian Studies

167 Hinduism: An Introduction
211MA Topics in Asian Studies: 'Modern Indian and South Asian Writers'
350 Love, Desire, and Gender in Indian Literature

Dance

143 Cultural Dance: Classical Indian Dance

Gender Studies

333SA Advanced Seminar: ‘Women and Gender in Modern South Asia’
333ND Love, Desire, and Gender in Indian Literature

History

124 History of Modern South Asia, 1700 to the Present
222 Muslim Politics in Modern South Asia
223 Religion and Politics in Modern India
301ND Colloquium: 'The Indian Ocean World'
301SA Advanced Seminar: ‘Women and Gender in Modern South Asia’

Politics

357 War and Peace in South Asia
373 Politics of Transformation in China and India
Religion
167   Hinduism: An Introduction
223   Religion and Politics in Modern India
241   Women and Buddhism
263   Introduction to Buddhism
267   Buddhist Ethics

Russian and Eurasian Studies
312   Silk Roads: Ancient and Modern Highways across the Eurasian Continent

See Also
- Asian Studies