South Asian Studies

College of Liberal & Creative Arts
Dean: Andrew Harris

South Asian Studies Program
Ethnic Studies and Psychology Building, Room 411
Phone: (415) 405–0389
Co-Coordinator: Falu Bakrania, Ethnic Studies

Humanities Building, Room 437
Phone: (415) 338–3128
Co-Coordinator: Kasturi Ray, Women and Gender Studies

Program Scope
South Asian Studies is the focus of this minor. South Asia refers to Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. These countries are members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The South Asian Studies minor is multidisciplinary and is designed to provide students with a broad understanding of the culture, history, economics, and politics of South Asia and its diaspora. The region of South Asia is a crucial area of study given its linguistic, ethnic, and religious diversity (its traditions draw from Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Jainism, and Christianity), its experience of British colonial rule and independence, its recent economic expansion and technological influence globally, and the widespread migration of South Asians over the last century. The study of South Asia thus offers students opportunities to explore pressing questions concerning colonialism and nationalism, political conflict and government, economic liberalization, cultural diversity and its expression in literature, art, and popular culture, and globalization.

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The South Asian Studies minor is useful for students planning careers in education, social service, law, politics, government, business, media, and art, both nationally and internationally. It also prepares students for graduate study in a number of academic fields.

South Asian Studies Minor

The minor consists of 18 units; three courses are taken from the core curriculum, which give students a basic framework for South Asian studies. These courses fully concentrate on South Asia and/or the diaspora and provide students with a broad introduction to the history, culture, and politics of South Asia (one course each need to be taken from the clusters of “Culture of South Asia,” “History and Politics of South Asia,” and “South Asian Diaspora”).

The remaining units can be taken from the core curriculum or from a long list of electives. Elective courses provide the opportunity for more in-depth or topical and comparative study as well as the study of South Asia in relation to other regions of the world.

The minor is designed to give flexibility to students who can select from courses across disciplines, including Art, Asian American Studies, Economics, English, Ethnic Studies, History, Holistic Health, Humanities, International Business, International Relations, Philosophy, Political Science, and Women and Gender Studies.

For more information, contact the program directors: Falu Bakrania (bakrania@sfsu.edu) or Kasturi Ray (kasturi@sfsu.edu).

Core
Select at least three courses (9–17 units) from the core according to the requirements indicated below. The core consists of three core areas identified as Culture of South Asia, History and Politics of South Asia, and South Asian Diaspora.

South Asian Studies Minor — Minimum 18 units

Core (9–17 units)

Core Area 1: Culture of South Asia (3–6 units)

ART 502 Asian Art: Special Areas (prerequisite of ART 205) 3
HUM 535 Classical South Asian Cultural Forms 3
HUM 536 Modern South Asian Cultural Forms 3

Core Area 2: History and Politics of South Asia (3–8 units)

HIST 584 India and the British Empire 3
IR 326 South and Southeast Asia Foreign Relations 4
PLSI/I R 412 South Asian Politics 4
PLSI 415 Politics of India 4

Core Area 3: South Asian Diaspora (3 units)

AA S 540 South Asians in the United States 3
RRS 657/ AA S 541 South Asian Diaspora 3

Electives (1–9 units)

Select any courses not completed in fulfillment of the core above

AA S 210 History of Asians in the United States 3
or AA S 510 Asian Americans in California 3
ART 417 The Art and Architecture of Islam 3
ART/HUM 205 Asian Art History 3
HIST 585 India since Gandhi 3
HIST 606 History of Iran and Afghanistan 1500 - Present 3
HUM 366 India’s Gandhi 3
HUM 375 Biography of a City (Delhi) 3
MUS 530 Musics of the Middle East and India 3
PHIL 509 The Buddhist Tradition 3
PLSI/I R 416 Ethnicity and Nationalism 4
SNSK 699 Independent Study 1–3