

SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Overview and Contact Information

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

See Also

- Asian Studies (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/asian-studies/>)

Contact Information

Calvin Chen, Chair

Denise Falk, Academic Department Coordinator

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413-538-2885

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/asian> (<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/asian/>)

Learning Goals

By majoring in South Asian Studies, students should:

- Develop knowledge of the history of premodern and modern South Asia.
- Develop knowledge of the arts, literature, religions, and philosophies of South Asia.
- Develop knowledge of the geography, politics, economics, and societies of South Asia.

Faculty

This area of study is administered by the Asian Studies Committee:

Satyananda Gabriel, Professor of Economics

Rie Hachiyangi, Professor of Art, On Leave 2021-2022

Sohail Hashmi, Professor of International Relations on the Alumnae Foundation and Professor of Politics

Kavita Khory, Ruth Lawson Professor of Politics; Carol Hoffmann Collins Director of the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives

Susanne Mrozik, Professor of Religion, Teaching Spring Only

Naoko Nemoto, Professor of Asian Studies

Joshua Roth, Professor of Anthropology

Ajay Sinha, Julie '73 and Helene '49 Herzig Professor of Art History, Teaching Spring Only

Ying Wang, Felicia Gressitt Bock Professor of Asian Studies

Elif Babul, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Teaching Fall Only

Calvin Chen, Associate Professor of Politics

Amina Steinfels, Associate Professor of Religion

Lan Wu, Assistant Professor of History

Lisha Xu, Senior Lecturer in Asian Studies

Heba Arafah, Five College Lecturer in Arabic

Jinhwa Chang, Lecturer in Japanese

Kyae-Sung Park, Five College Lecturer in Korean

Richard Chu, Five College Associate Professor of History

Mohamed Hassan, Five College Senior Lecturer in Arabic

May George, Five College Lecturer in Middle East Studies

Nahla Khalil, Five College Lecturer in Arabic

Suk Massey, Five College Lecturer in Korean

Shaimaa Moustafa, Five College Lecturer in Arabic

Chan Young Park, Five College Lecturer in Korean

John Weinert, Five College Lecturer in Arabic

Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 40 credits:

Code	Title	Credits
One course (4 credits) in modern South Asian history, for example:		4
HIST-124	History of Modern South Asia, 1700 to the Present	
One course (4 credits) on pre-modern and/or early modern South Asia (c. 3000 BCE to 1700 CE), for example:		4
ARTH-263	Arts of India	
8 elective courses (32 credits):		32
Two (8 credits) must be from Group One: Humanities (history, religion, philosophy, literature, language, the arts, and interdisciplinary courses in these areas) ¹		
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 at the 300 level. One of the three 300-level courses must be a non-language and non-independent study course. ²		
Total Credits		40

- ¹ In order to count toward the major, studio art or performance courses must be supplemented with analytical written work.
- ² A course that is taught outside of Mount Holyoke College must be approved by the chair of the Asian Studies program to count as a 300-level course.

RELIG-267	Buddhist Ethics	4
RELIG-311	Sufism: The Mystic Path in Islam	4

Additional Specifications

- 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.
- Students who declare a South Asian studies major automatically fulfill the College's "outside the major" requirement.

Courses Counting toward the Major

Most South Asian studies courses at Mount Holyoke are listed below, but students should also consult the catalog 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 Class Schedule (<https://www.fivecolleges.edu/academics/courses/>) or individual college websites).

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

Code	Title	Credits
Art History		
ARTH-263	Arts of India	4
ARTH-290BC	Issues in Art History: 'Bollywood: A Cinema of Interruptions'	4
Critical Social Thought		
CST-249BE	Topics in Critical Social Thought: 'Buddhist Ethics'	4
Film, Media, Theater		
FMT-230BC	Intermediate Courses in History and Theory: 'Bollywood: A Cinema of Interruptions'	4
History		
HIST-124	History of Modern South Asia, 1700 to the Present	4
HIST-239EN	Topics in Asian History: 'Empire, Nation, and the Making of Tribes in South Asia'	4
HIST-249	The Environment and South Asian Lifeworlds	4
HIST-301CS	Colloquium: 'Capitalism in South Asia'	4
Politics		
POLIT-357	War and Peace in South Asia	4
Religion		
RELIG-163	Introduction to Buddhism	4
RELIG-225AN	Topics in Religion: 'Arts of India'	4
RELIG-241	Women and Gender in Buddhism	4