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SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES  
Faculty of arts & social sciences  
AY 2013-2014  

PHOTO: S Chung
About South Asian Studies

South Asian Studies Programme is designed to increase students’ understanding of the South Asian region from multidisciplinary points of view. The South Asian region is made up of the nations of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives and, wherever possible, modules deal with the region as a whole. There is an emphasis on contemporary and recent historical studies, the aim of which is to give a basis for appreciation of the developments which have taken place in these nations since the end of the colonial period in the mid 20th century, and the opportunities they have for change in the future. The multidisciplinary base of the programme links economic and developmental studies, historical and political studies, social and cultural studies, and philosophical, literary and linguistic studies. SASP also offers students with GCE ‘A’ Level or GCE ‘AO’ Level passes in Tamil the possibility to pursue studies of the Tamil language and culture at an academic level.

Entry Requirements

SASP welcomes all students with good results at GCE ‘A’ Levels (including General Paper) who have an interest in South Asia. No prior knowledge of the region or knowledge of any South Asian language is required.

Studying South Asia

Single Major [B.A. (Hons.)]

To graduate with Honours in South Asian Studies (SN), students must read and pass at least 100 modular credits (MCs) of SN or SN-recognised modules (includes Tamil or Hindi language modules). This includes the essential modules:

i. SN1101E South Asia: People, Culture, Development
ii. SN4101 Approaches to the Study of South Asia
iii. SN4102 Critical Debates in South Asian Studies

At least 20 MCs must be at Level-3000 (excludes language modules).

Second Major

This option allows students to establish credentials in more than one discipline of study. Students opting for a second major in South Asian Studies must pass at least 48 MCs of SN or SN-recognised modules, with a minimum of 16 MCs at Level-3000 modules.

Minor in India Studies

Students can also undertake India Studies as a minor. The minor can be read alongside a major in any disciplinary area. To attain the minor, students will be required to pass at least 24 MCs of SN or SN recognised modules, with a minimum of 8 MCs at Level-3000 modules.

Language modules

Students can use up to a maximum of 8 MCs of either Tamil OR Hindi language modules, not both, to satisfy the majors and minor requirements.

Career Options

South Asian economies have expanded at a rapid pace. The domestic politics and economic policies of countries within South Asia, shaped by deeper socio-cultural realities, have come to play an increasingly important role in global development. Multinational corporations based in the United States, Europe, Japan and Singapore, in search of new markets and consumer bases, are showing a keen interest in engaging with the economies of the region. To do business here, these organisations seek out individuals with critical insights and a nuanced understanding of the cultures, religions, societies, development, history, and politics of South Asia.

Given the shortage of South Asian specialists in Singapore, SASP provides students with skills in critical thinking, analysis, and research that open up employment opportunities in both the private and government sectors. A Major in South Asian Studies could benefit from job prospects in areas as lucrative as consulting, public administration, foreign affairs, developmental organisations, media and the possibility of careers in the fields of academia and research.

SN Modules

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SN1101E South Asia: People, Culture, Development
SN2231 Contemporary South Asian Economies
SN2233 Globalizing India: The Politics of Economic Change
SN2234 Gender & Society in South Asia
SN2261 The Emergence of Contemporary South Asia
SN2271 Religion & Society in South Asia
SN2273 Introduction to Indian Thought
SN2274 South Asian Cultures: An Introduction
SN2275 Tamil Studies I
SN2277 Indian Communities in Southeast Asia
SN2278 Introduction to Sikhism
SN3223 International Relations of South Asia
SN3232 South Asia: Development, Issues, Debates
SN3261 Exile, Indenture, IT: Global South Asians
SN3262 The Struggle for India, 1920-1964
SN3272 Issues in Indian Philosophy
SN3274 South Asian Cinema
SN3275 Tamil Studies II
SN3279 Language, Culture & Identity in India
SN3280 Governing Public Services in India
GEK1035 Nations & Nationalisms in South Asia
GEM1913 Beasts, People & Wild Environments in South Asia <NEW!>

FUTURE OFFERINGS

SN2213 Governance & Politics in South Asia
SN2232 South Asia: Poverty, Inequality, Power
SN2251 The Information Revolution in India
SN2276 Islam: Society & Culture in South Asia
SN2279 The Making of Modern India, 1856-1947
SN3231 South Asia & the World Economy
SN3276 Introduction to Classical Indian Texts
SN3277 South Asia: Field Studies
SN3278 Rivers of India: Divinity & Sacred Space
SN3550 Internship
SN3880A Art of India
SN4101 Approaches to the Study of South Asia
SN4102 Critical Debates in South Asian Studies
SN4233 Social, Political and Economic Change in India
SN4234 Mapping Social Movements in India
SN4261 South & Southeast Asia: Early Contacts
SN4262 Hindutva Nationalism
SN4263 Themes in Contemporary Indian History
GEK1048 Gandhi & Conflict Resolution: Global Legacies