

Geography of South Asia
GEOG 356
Spring 2016

Instructor: Professor Trevor Birkenholtz
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Class Time: TR, 9:30 am – 10:50 am
Location: 313 Davenport Hall

Required Materials (available via most online booksellers: Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Ecampus, etc)

- ❖ Shneiderman, Sara. 2015. *Rituals of Ethnicity: Thangmi Identities Between Nepal and India*. University of Pennsylvania Press. ISBN: 0812246837.
- ❖ Besky, Sarah. 2013. *The Darjeeling Distinction: Labor and Justice on Fair-Trade Tea Plantations in India*. University of California Press. ISBN: 0520277392
- ❖ Ghertner, Asher. 2015. *Rule By Aesthetics: World-Class City Making in Delhi*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0199385572.

*****Additional readings are available on Compass*****

Course Description & Organization

This semester we will examine contemporary South Asia through three interrelated and overarching themes: *environment and development* (including climate change), *globalization*, and *social inequality and social change*. We will examine these three themes by dividing the course into two parts. In Part I, the course provides a background to the region and is lecture-discussion based. It focuses on the historical and physical geography of the region as well as its contemporary human geography. It examines the latter through the three overarching themes listed above. Part I of the course will conclude with a midterm exam that will have both an in-class and a take-home essay component. There is no final exam for this course.

In the second section of the course, we will delve into these three themes by reading three research monographs. This part of the course will proceed in a seminar fashion with increased reading, in-class discussion and out of class writing assignments. For all three books, you will write a brief analytical essay (5-7 pages) in response to questions about the book that I will provide to you. The book analyses are due in class on the following days:

Shneiderman: March 17
Besky: April 14
Ghertner: April 28

Learning Objectives:

By the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the political and physical geographic features of South Asia.
2. Explain the historical and contemporary impacts of colonization on South Asian politics, economics, environment and culture.
3. Detail the effects of the post-independence period of development on agriculture, environment and social relations.
4. Situate South Asia in the broader processes of economic, political and cultural globalization.
5. Identify the (social and environmental) lessons taught by and challenges facing contemporary South Asia.

Student Assessment

Attendance and Participation	10%
Midterm Exam	45%
Book Analyses (3 @ 15%)	45%

Attendance and Participation evaluation may include: 1) in-class/small group work; 2) handouts on videos; and 3) attendance.

Late papers will be penalized by one letter grade during the first week past the due date. For instance, an "A" paper would become a "B" paper. Thereafter, the paper will revert to a zero.

There is no final exam for this course.

Throughout the course, there may be special events sponsored by UIUC's Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES). You may earn an additional 1-3% (total) by attending these extra-curricular activities and writing a short summary of your experience(s). I will announce these as they come up and you can follow them here: <http://www.csames.illinois.edu>

Special Needs

All efforts will be made to accommodate students with special needs. However, students are responsible for making their needs known to me and for seeking assistance in a timely manner. Please contact me to privately discuss your personal requirements. I.e.: Don't wait until the day an assignment is due to inform me of your needs.

Current Academic Integrity Policy

Plagiarism or other academically inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated

Please consult <http://www.library.illinois.edu/learn/research/academicintegrity.html> for details about the UIUC plagiarism policy, and for what does and does not constitute plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether you have provided adequate citation, please consult with me.

Topic and Reading Schedule (subject to change):

Topic 1: South Asia in Global Context – Globalization, January 19 & 21

(T) First Class & Introduction

(TH) Nadeem, S. (2009). "The uses and abuses of time: globalization and time arbitrage in India's outsourcing industries." *Global Networks-a Journal of Transnational Affairs* 9(1): 20-40.

Video: *Coding Culture or Diverted to Delhi*

Topic 2: Historical Geography, Social Change and Stagnation in South Asia, January 26 & 28

(T) Weightman, Barbara. *Dragons and Tigers: A Geography of South, East and Southeast Asia*. - Ch. 6 ("South Asia: Creating Dilemmas of Diversity"), p. 150-179

(TH) Jeffrey, C. 2002. "'A fist is stronger than five fingers': caste and dominance in rural north India." In: *South Asia in a Globalising World*, p. 205-228

Topic 3: India, the Green Revolution and Population, February 2 & 4

(T) Weightman, Barbara. *Dragons and Tigers: A Geography of South, East and Southeast Asia*. - Ch. 8 ("South Asia: India, Giant of the Subcontinent"), p. 215-248

(TH) Ross, Eric. 1998. "False Premises, False Promises: Malthusianism and the Green Revolution." In: *The Malthus Factor*, p. 137-162.

Nally, D. & Stephen Taylor. 2015. "The politics of self-help: The Rockefeller Foundation, philanthropy and the 'long' Green Revolution," *Political Geography* 49: 51-63.

Topic 4: Bangladesh, Climate Change & Social Inequality, February 9 & 11

(T) Weightman, Barbara. *Dragons and Tigers: A Geography of South, East and Southeast Asia*. - Ch. 9 ("South Asia: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Islands..."), p. 249-269

(TH) Black, R., D. Kniveton, et al. (2011). "Migration and climate change: towards an integrated assessment of sensitivity." *Environment and Planning A* 43(2): 431-450.

Topic 5: Pakistan and the Himalayas, February 16 & 18

(T) Weightman, Barbara. *Dragons and Tigers: A Geography of South, East and Southeast Asia*. - Ch. 7 ("South Asia: Pakistan and the Himalayan States"), p. 180-214

(TH) Hasan, Arif. "Informal settlements and urban sustainability in Pakistan." In: *South Asia in a Globalising World*, p. 229-250.

Topic 6: Globalization, Neoliberalism, Coca-Cola(ization), and Urban Water Access, February 23 & 25

(T) Aiyer, A. (2007). "The Allure of the Transnational: Notes on Some Aspects of the Political Economy of Water in India." *Cultural Anthropology* 22(4): 640-658.

Video: *A Killer Bargain*

(TH) Birkenholtz, T. (2010). "'Full Cost Recovery': producing differentiated water collection practices and responses to centralized water networks in Jaipur, India" *Environment and Planning A* 42: 2238-2253.

Midterm Exam: In-Class March 1; Take-Home Distributed February 25, Due March 3

March 3 – Video: Organs for Sale

Topic 7: South Asian Identities March 8, 10, 15 & 17

Shneiderman, Sara. 2015. *Rituals of Ethnicity: Thangmi Identities Between Nepal and India*. University of Pennsylvania Press. ISBN: 0812246837.

Video: TBA

*******Spring Break: NO CLASS MARCH 22 & 24*******

Topic 8: Guest Lecture: Ryan Stock, TBA, March 29 & 31

Reading: TBA
In-class exercise

Topic 9: Labor, Tea and Fair-Trade Justice?, April 5, 7, 12 & 14

Besky, Sarah. 2013. *The Darjeeling Distinction: Labor and Justice on Fair-Trade Tea Plantations in India*. University of California Press. ISBN: 0520277392.

Video: *Flip the coin: The bitter taste of tea*

Topic 10: Urban Governance, April 19, 21, 26 & 28

Ghertner, Asher. 2015. *Rule By Aesthetics: World-Class City Making in Delhi*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0199385572.

Video: *Q2P*

Last Day of Classes: Course Wrap-up, May 3, 2016

Discussion... and consumption... of Indian food & chai!!