

Peoples & Cultures of South Asia
Anthropology 3700.400
Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Nelson

Office: Sycamore Hall 104C

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10-12; [book an appointment](#)

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Instructional Assistants:

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Instructor Communication: Students can expect to hear back from the instructor/IAs within 24 hours of the initial email (48 hours on the weekend).

Course Description:

This course covers the cultural region of South Asia, which includes the countries of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and occasionally Afghanistan, Tibet, and Burma, as well as the large South Asian diaspora around the world. From an anthropological perspective, we survey the contributions of South Asian societies to our understandings of the world, countries, cities, communities, and notions of self. In addition to reading academic texts, students will gain an appreciation for the region through films, literary fiction, and blogs.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course, the learner will be able to:

- Contextualize South Asia within its geography and history.
- Articulate the contributions of South Asian people to the world and US.
- Analyze challenges to nationalism and social inequality in South Asia.
- Challenge assumptions about South Asian cultural practices.

Required Texts: None

All materials can be found on Canvas modules. Articles will be identified by the author's name and year of publication.

Course Requirements:

I. Weekly Readings, Lectures, Viewings, and Workshops

Students are expected to complete all lesson work in the week they are assigned.

II. Kaam (5 assignments/15% of final grade): In the first lesson of each unit, there will be an assignment due.

III. Pariksha (6 quizzes/24% of final grade): In the second lesson of each unit (and third of unit one), students will have multiple choice quizzes to take.

IV. Nibandha (3 essays/42% of final grade): In the final lesson of units II, III, IV, students will write a short essay.

V. Pariyojana (Final Project/15% of final grade): In the final lesson of the semester, students will visit one South Asian-related food truck in DFW to conduct ethnographic research and submit a final report.

VI. Core Assessment (4%):

At the end of the course, students will answer two questions that address the University Core Assessment guidelines.

Grade

Type of Work	Percentage of Final Grade
Kaam (assignments)	15%
Pariksha (quizzes)	24%
Nibandha (essays)	42%
Pariyojana (final project)	15%
Core assessment	4%

All grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59-under	F

Course & University Policies

Late Coursework

Late coursework will not be accepted over email. Requests for extensions must be made before the due date. Late work will only be accepted for credit if accompanied by a note from a medical professional attesting to your inability to complete it. No other exceptions will be considered.

Program of Anthropology Academic Honesty

The Program of Anthropology expects its students to abide by the high ethical standards of practicing professionals within the field of anthropology. The Department does not tolerate cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, or sabotage. This includes the use of unauthorized professional writing/editing services and generative AI for assignments. Students are expected to follow the [American Anthropological Association's code of ethics](https://ethics.americananthro.org/category/statement/): "In their capacity as researchers, anthropologists are subject to the ethical principles guiding all scientific and scholarly conduct. They must not plagiarize, nor fabricate or falsify evidence, or knowingly misrepresent information or its source" (<https://ethics.americananthro.org/category/statement/>).

Students are encouraged to use the [UNT Writing Center](#). For information on the University's policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT [Student Academic Integrity policy](#).

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, [Student Academic Integrity](#), academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the [Code of Student Conduct](#). The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

The [Dean of Students Office](#) enforces the [Code of Student Conduct](#). The Code explains what conduct is prohibited, the process the DOS uses to review reports of alleged misconduct by students, and the sanctions that can be assigned. When students may have violated the Code they meet with a representative from the Dean of Students Office to discuss the alleged misconduct in an educational process.

ADA Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Important Notice for F-1 Students Taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please visit the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations](#). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the [UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office](#) by telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

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Rev. 7/22/2016

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Visit [Title IX Student Information](#) for more resources.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called [Eagle Alert](#) to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.