

ANTH 3700.400

THE PEOPLE AND CULTURE OF SOUTH ASIA

Summer 2026

Dr. Hannah MacIntyre (Dr. Mac)

Office hours available by appointment and may be scheduled virtually or in person. Email communication is also available for students at any time.

hannah.macintyre@unt.edu

A brief note on communication- Office hours offer you an opportunity to ask for clarification or find support with understanding class material. Reach out! I encourage you to connect with me for support. Flexible office hours, in person and virtually, will be offered throughout the semester. Your success is my goal.

Course Description:

This course is an online, asynchronous, 8 week summer course that examines the peoples, cultures, and societies of South Asia through anthropological perspectives. Covering the countries of, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, the course explores cultural diversity, social organization, religious traditions, political institutions, economic change, and everyday life across the region. Drawing on ethnographic research, historical sources, and contemporary case studies, students investigate topics such as kinship and family, social organization, religion and ritual, migration, colonial and postcolonial history, nation-building, economic development, and globalization. The course emphasizes comparative analysis and the application of anthropological methods to understanding social and cultural patterns within South Asia and its connections to broader global processes. Course curriculum includes multi-modal engagement opportunities including lecture, reading materials, videos, and interactive online platforms.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Identify and describe** the major cultural, linguistic, religious, and ethnic traditions found across South Asia.
2. **Explain** key anthropological concepts, methods, and theories used in the study of human societies and cultures.
3. **Analyze** historical and contemporary factors that have shaped social, cultural, political, and economic developments in South Asia.
4. **Describe and evaluate** the roles of social institutions, including family, kinship, religion, and systems of social organization, in South Asian societies.
5. **Interpret and assess** ethnographic and other scholarly sources related to South Asia using anthropological approaches.
6. **Compare and contrast** cultural practices, belief systems, and social structures across different communities and regions of South Asia.
7. **Examine** contemporary issues affecting South Asia, including economic development, environmental change, migration, governance, and regional relations.
8. **Recognize and explain** the diversity of experiences, perspectives, and cultural traditions present within South Asian societies.
9. **Apply anthropological perspectives** to analyze connections between South Asia and broader global social, economic, and political processes.
10. **Communicate effectively** through written and oral assignments that use anthropological evidence to support analysis and interpretation.

Materials

All required reading materials will be available on Canvas or digitally through the UNT libraries system

Main Course Text:

Mines, D. P., & Lamb, S. (Eds.). (2010). *Everyday life in South Asia* (2nd ed.). [Indiana University Press](#). [1]

Other readings listed on schedule and posted in modules

Grade Breakdown:

Grading Scale

Syllabus quiz	5 pts	5% of grade	A	90-100
Introduction video	5 pts	5% of grade	B	80-89
5 quizzes (lowest of 6 dropped)	15pts each	75% of grade	C	70-79
2 written responses	7.5pts each	15% grade	D	60-69
(2 extra credit opportunities will be provided, one each four weeks)			F	<60

Assessments:

Quizzes (75%) Rather than have a comprehensive midterm and final, students will take 6 shorter assessments through the 8 week semester. The best 5 of these will comprise the bulk of the course grade. These quizzes will include multiple choice(s) and short answer (2-3 sentences) questions. Any material covered in the lectures, reading or other materials is fair game for these quizzes. They will be timed (50 minutes). There will be no make-up opportunities, extensions, nor late submissions for these. Documented ODA accommodations will be exercised in terms of extended time limits.

Written Responses (15%) Twice during the semester students will be asked to consider anthropological aspects of South Asian life juxtaposed with their own individual and cultural experiences. These short writing assignments will be brief essays. The material foci are in the course schedule.

Syllabus quiz (5%)...did you read it? Listen to the intro lecture? Do you know what *you* need to do to successfully complete this class? Cool! I'll give you a whole 5 points just for proving it.

Introduction Video (5%) It's difficult for me to get to know my students when the class is online and asynchronous. I like to try and make the material as relatable to and accessible for my students as possible. Getting to see you and hear from you facilitates this.

Course Organization

With a couple of exceptions (noted below), each week will follow the same general pattern. There are lectures Monday and Wednesday covering each weekly topic. Tuesdays and Thursdays are generally reading days. Most Fridays there are quizzes. The specific schedule for each week can be found in Modules for each week of the summer term.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week 1

June 1st - June 5th

Topics:

Course overview and introduction to South Asia

Assignments:

Syllabus Quiz

Due 6/5 by 11:59 PM

Introduction Video

Due 6/5 by 11:59 PM

Week 2

June 8th- June12th

Topics:

Pre-colonial History

Colonial History

Assignment:

Quiz 1

Due 6/12 by 11:59 PM

Week 3

June 15th- June19th

Topics:

Post-colonial History

Personhood and Community

Assignment:

Quiz 2

Due 6/19 by 11:59 PM

Week 4

June 22nd - June 26th

Topics:

Identity and Family

Religions of the Subcontinent

Assignment:

Written Response: Comparative cultural norms and contexts

Due 6/26 by 11:59 PM

Week 5

June 29th- July 3rd

Topics:

Caste and Class

Rath Yatra festival feature

Assignment:

Quiz 3

Due 7/3 by 11:59 PM

Week 6

July 6th- July 10th

Topics:

Communalism

Partition

Assignments:

Written Response: Comparative cultural norms and contexts

Due 7/8 by 11:59 PM

Quiz 4

Due 7/10 by 11:59 PM

Week 7

July 13th- July 17th

Topics:

Global South Asia

South Asian Diaspora

Assignment:

Quiz 5

Due 7/17 by 11:59 PM

Week 8

July 20th- July 24th

Topics:

Future directions for South Asia

Further Suggested Readings and Contemporary Studies

Assignments:

Quiz 6

Due 7/23 by 11:59 PM

Assignment Policy

All work submitted for credit must be original work created by the student uniquely for this ANTH 3700.400 course during the Summer 2026 semester. Any work generating a similarity score or AI score above 25% will be reviewed for plagiarism. NOTE: If you are re-taking this course, you must receive written approval from the instructor prior to resubmitting any assessment. If you re-submit work, or sections of work, from a previous semester without permission and/or from another course, then this is categorized as plagiarism—even if it is your own writing. Work submitted via any other medium (i.e. email) will not be accepted. It is the student's responsibility to confirm that work has been submitted successfully by the deadline and in a readable and acceptable format (doc or .pdf).

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted. To accommodate the inevitables of life, the lowest quiz grade is being dropped. If there are extreme circumstances, please reach out to me as soon as possible so that we have the best chance of building a plan for your success.

Technical Difficulties

If a student is experiencing personal technical difficulties that prohibit them from uploading their assignment to Canvas, the instructor will consider accepting it only if the student attaches the

assignment to an email to the professor within an hour of the elapsed deadline AND includes a Help Desk receipt, or dated/timed screenshot of the student's email to the Help Desk.

Student Helpdesk:

Sage Hall 130

940-565-2324

<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>

helpdesk@unt.edu

Online Course Requirements

Technical Skill Requirements

To be successful in this class, students will need to be able to: download and upload files, send and receive emails and navigate CANVAS.

Minimum Technology Requirements:

- Computer • Speakers
- Microsoft Office Suite
- CANVAS Technical Requirements

<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>

CANVAS Technical Requirements

- Computer Skills & Digital Literacy
- Using CANVAS
- Using Word

Success in an Online Course

Visit this site for tips on "How to Succeed as an Online Student"

<https://clear.unt.edu/teaching-resources/online-teaching/succeed-online>

Netiquette

The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom

environment. Please use proper netiquette when interacting with class members and the instructor. See these Rules for Online Engagement:

<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>

Student Support Services

- Registration (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- Financial Aid (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- Student Legal Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- Career Center (<https://careercenter.unt.edu/>)
- Counseling and Testing Services <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-andtesting-services>
- Student Affairs Care Team <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>
- Student Health and Wellness Center <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/studenthealth-and-wellness->
- Food Pantry presented by Kroger <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/food-pantry>
- School Supply Pantry <https://learningcenter.unt.edu/school-supply-pantry>
- First-Generation Success Center <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/first-generationsuccess-center>
- COVID Information: <https://healthalerts.unt.edu/>

Academic Support Services

- Academic Resource Center (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- Academic Success Center (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- University Libraries (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- Writing Lab (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)
- Math Lab (<https://math.unt.edu/mathlab>)

Copyright Notice

Some, or all, of the materials on this course website may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies.

Dropping the Course

If the student is unable to complete this course, the student may submit a "Request to Drop" form to the registrar by July 10, 2026 and receive a "W" on their transcript. If you simply stop attending and do not formally drop the course, or if you drop the course after the deadline, you will receive an "F". If there are extenuating circumstances prohibiting you from completing the course, contact the professor to discuss whether you would be eligible to receive an "Incomplete" for the class prior to this deadline.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University of North Texas is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940- 565-2324. The instructor and the UNT Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time. The student is responsible for submitting a "ticket" to the instructor, issued by the UNT Help Desk documenting the time and nature of the problem in order for the instructor to consider accommodations.

UNT Policies

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 Summer 2023 ANTH 1150-8 from the University. Any student suspected of cheating in this course will receive at the very least a 0 on the assignment or up to an F in the course. A report of academic integrity violation shall be filed against the student with UNT and the student will have an opportunity to appeal the decision according to UNT's appeal process. In ANTH 1150.200, virtual study groups including, but not limited to, platforms such as CANVAS, Group Me, discord, etc. must include an IA as a member. Any student participating in either a virtual, or in-person, group may be reported to the academic integrity office and sanctioned with an "F" in the course if there is cause to question academic integrity within the group. This implicates any and every student who is, or has been, a participant in the group, whether or not they are directly/indirectly, or actively/passively, involved in the potential academic integrity offense.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at anytime, however, ODA notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website.