PEOPLES AND CULTURES OF SOUTH ASIA
ANTHROPOLOGY 317:001, Winter 2007
MWF 12:45 – 1:50, Cramer Hall 258
Professor Michele Gamburd
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Email: gamburdm@pdx.edu
Office: 141-N Cramer Hall
Office Hours: MW 11:30 – 12:30
    and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will present an anthropological introduction to some of the many peoples and cultures in the geographic region of South Asia, with an emphasis on the countries of India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. We will focus primarily on how people live and what they believe. The class will examine five central topics: 1) gender and family, 2) caste, 3) religion and ritual, 4) Hindu-Muslim communal conflict in India and Bangladesh, and 5) globalization and women’s work. Readings and lecture will bring critical theoretical perspectives to bear on a wide selection of ethnographic data. We will investigate how power operates in social structures such as the family, the caste system, and the international economy. We will also explore the cultural construction of identities, including gender, caste, religious, and national affiliations. Through our focus on power and identity, we will examine the structures and practices of inequality.

REQUIRED READINGS:
Many class materials are available on WebCT (see below). You may either read these documents online or print off a copy for personal use.
McGilvray, Dennis
Mines, Diane and Sarah Lamb, eds.
Roy, Beth
NOTE: Roy’s book is also available online at http://ark.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/ft629007fg/.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:
Students taking this course pass/no-pass are required to earn at least a 'C-' to pass the class. Grades will be based on the geography quiz (10%), the first term test (30%), the second term test (30%), and the writing assignment (30%).

Geography Quiz (10%) Wednesday 24 January
On this multiple-choice quiz, students will be asked to identify areas and points of major importance in South Asia. A study-guide is posted on WebCT. Please bring a green scantron (882-ES-LOVAS or 882-ES) and a number 2 pencil to the quiz. Scantrons are available at the bookstore and the campus shop in Smith Memorial Student Union.
Term-test #1: Gender, Family, Caste, Religion, and Ritual (30%) Wednesday, 21 February

This in-class test will cover the first four sections of the course. The exam will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. A review sheet will be posted on WebCT before the test. Please bring a green scantron (882-ES-LOVAS or 882-ES), a number 2 pencil, a blue book, and a pen to the test.

Term-test #2: Communalism and Conflict, Globalization and Work, (30%) Monday, 19 March, 12:30-2:20, CH 258

This in-class test will cover the last two sections of the course. The exam will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. A review sheet will be posted on WebCT before the test. Please bring a green scantron (882-ES-LOVAS or 882-ES), a number 2 pencil, a blue book, and a pen to the test.

Writing assignment (30%) Due EITHER Monday 5 Feb. OR Monday 12 March

Students will turn in one of the two possible 4-page writing assignments. The first assignment, ‘Option #1’, on gender and family, is due on Monday, 5 February. The second assignment, ‘Option #2,’ on communal violence, is due on Monday, 12 March. Students may choose which of these two essays they prefer to write. Hardcopies of papers are required; no email submissions accepted.

Policy on plagiarism, grades, illness, emergencies, and extensions:

Late papers and exams will lose one letter grade for each day past due except in the event of severe illness or emergency. Requests for deadline extensions should be made in written or electronic form ahead of the due date. All work must be completed for students to receive a passing grade. Please retain for your own records a copy of all the work you submit. Students with a documented disability needing accommodations in this course should immediately inform the instructor.

Plagiarism (intellectual theft) is a very serious academic offense. Any assignment containing plagiarized material will receive a failing grade. You are responsible for reading and understanding the department handout on plagiarism posted on WebCT. Please ask the instructor if you have any questions.

WebCT

On WebCT you will find many class materials, including the syllabus, study materials for the geography quiz, most class readings, discussion questions for all class readings, instructions for the writing assignment, and review sheets for the term tests.

WebCT is accessible at http://psuonline.pdx.edu/ and its use will be demonstrated on the first day of class. All students can access WebCT with an Odin username and password. If you do not have an Odin account, you can sign up to get one at https://www.account.pdx.edu. Please contact the instructor if you encounter difficulties in accessing this resource.
COURSE OUTLINE

SECTION 1 (Week 1) INTRODUCTION

This section will introduce students to the study of South Asia by exploring facts and figures about the region, as well as some of the ethical issues surrounding the politics of representation. How do anthropologists learn about “others”? How do we express our knowledge to people who have no experience of this other culture?

Ramanujan, A.K.
Schmidt, Karl J.

SECTION 2 (Week 2-3) GENDER & FAMILY

This section of the course examines men’s and women’s positions in contemporary South Asian society. We will explore the construction of gender roles, kinship, and family units as they affect larger social structures and practices. The film, lectures, and readings focus on issues such as kinship terminology, extended families, arranged marriages, dowry, motherhood, female infanticide, and gender ideologies.

Jeffery, Patricia and Roger Jeffery
Miller, Barbara D.
Film: “Dadi and Her Family”
Stone, Linda and Caroline James
Gold, Ann Grodzins
Seymour, Susan
SECTION 3 (Week 4) CASTE

This section presents an introduction to the study of caste. What is “caste”? What practices characterize a caste society? What is the relationship between caste and religion? Between caste and class? In what ways is caste fundamental to Indian society?

Elder, Joe


Mines, Diane and Sarah Lamb


De Bary, Theodore, ed.


Quigley, Declan


Viramma, with Josiane Racine and Jean-Luc Racine


Dickey, Sara

SECTION 4 (Weeks 5-6) RELIGION AND RITUAL

This section’s readings deal with both textual sources of South Asian religions and religious practices as lived tradition and everyday activity.

Hinduism

Kinsley, David R.

Narayan, Kirin

McGilvray, Dennis

Lawrence, Patricia

Film: National Geographic Explorer: Sri Lanka

Buddhism

Schmidt, Karl J.

Lopez, Donald S.

Carbine, Jason A.

Islam and Sikhism

De Bary, Theodore, ed.

Wilce, Jim
Leaf, Murray

SECTION 5 (Weeks 7-9) COMMUNAL AND RELIGIOUS CONFLICT
Focusing on religion and territory, this section examines issues of nationalism, communalism, and identity politics in South Asia. We explore the creation of competing and oppositional religious identities, with a focus on past and contemporary Hindu/Muslim conflicts in India and Bangladesh.

Schmidt, Karl J.

Gandhi, Rajmohan

Ludden, David

Roy, Beth

Film: “Father, Son and Holy War,” directed by Anand Patwardhan.

SECTION 6 (Weeks 9-10) GLOBALIZATION, GENDER, AND WORK
Readings and lectures for section 6 examine South Asia in transnational perspective, exploring communication and trade between this region and the rest of the world. We will focus on historic, cultural, and economic interconnections, examining the structures and practices of inequality. Several readings examine in detail the connection between gender ideologies and the global economy.

Schmidt, Karl J.

Van der Veer, Peter

Karliner, Joshua
Telegraph Group
2004 Bhopal is still suffering after 20 years. The Island. 3 December 2004, p. 8.

Davis, Coralynn

Lynch, Caitrin
# CLASS SCHEDULE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Readings, assignments, tests, films:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>Handout: Syllabus</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Read: Ramanujan, Schmidt</td>
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<td>Read: Jeffery &amp; Jeffery</td>
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<td>PSU Closed: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</td>
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<td>Read: Miller</td>
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<td>Film: Dadi’s Family</td>
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<td>Read: Gold, Seymour</td>
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<td>Review for geography quiz</td>
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<td>Read: Seizer, Alter</td>
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<td>Read: Elder, Mines &amp; Lamb</td>
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<td>Read: de Bary, Quigley</td>
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<td>Read: Viramma, Dickey</td>
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<td>Due: Writing Assignment Option #1</td>
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<td>Read: Kinsley</td>
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<td>Read: Schmidt, Lopez</td>
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<td>Slides: Ritual Healing in Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>Read: Schmidt, Gandhi, Ludden</td>
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<td>Read: Roy Part I: ‘Making Trouble’</td>
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<td>Film: Father, Son &amp; Holy War</td>
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<td>Read: Roy Part II: ‘Making Sense’</td>
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