

SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES MINOR CONCENTRATION (B.A.) (18 CREDITS)

Offered by: History and Classical Studies (Faculty of Arts)

Degree: Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of Arts and Science

Program credit weight: 18

Program Description

The B.A.: Minor Concentration in South Asian Studies offers breadth and depth on the history, literature, languages, politics, religions, cultures, and societies of South Asia. The minor concentration is divided into two streams, "Culture and Civilization" and "Languages." An interdisciplinary curriculum is collaboratively offered by the Department of Anthropology, English, History and Classical Studies, Political Science, and Sociology, the Institute of Islamic Studies, and the School of Religious Studies, and is complemented by language instruction in Persian, Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Urdu-Hindi.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

Complementary Courses (18 credits)

18 credits from one of the following streams:

Stream 1: Culture and Civilization

Note: As course content may change according to the offering unit's yearly curriculum, all classes listed must be approved in consultation with the South Asian Studies adviser as relevant to the Minor Concentration. Students should refer to the Course Catalogue to confirm any prerequisites for the following courses.

Introductory Curriculum

6 credits from the following:

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Course	Title	Credits
ANTH 327	Anthropology of South Asia.	3
ANTH 361	Archaeology of South Asia.	3
ENGL 297	Special Topics of Literary Study.	3
HIST 209	Introduction to South Asian History.	3
ISLA 330	Islamic Mysticism: Sufism.	3
POLI 322	Political Change in South Asia.	3
RELG 252	Hinduism and Buddhism.	3
RELG 254	Introduction to Yoga Traditions.	3

Intermediate and Advanced Curriculum

12 credits from the following:

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Course	Title	Credits
ANTH 308	Political Anthropology 01.	3
ANTH 510	Advanced Problems in Anthropology of Religion.	3
ENGL 336	The 20th Century Novel 2.	3
ENGL 404	Studies in 19th Century Literature 1.	3
ENGL 408	The 20th Century.	3
HIST 341	Themes in South Asian History.	3
HIST 435	Topics in South Asian History.	3
HIST 481	History of Bangladesh and Pakistan.	3
ISLA 305	Topics in Islamic History.	3
ISLA 420	Indo-Islamic Civilization: Medieval.	3
ISLA 421	Islamic Culture - Indian Subcontinent.	3
ISLA 489	Special Topics 6.	3
ISLA 555	Urdu Poetry.	3
ISLA 581	Special Topics 1.	3
POLI 423	Politics of Ethno-Nationalism.	3
POLI 435	Identity and Inequality.	3
RELG 288	Introduction to Sikhism.	3
RELG 344	Mahayana Buddhism.	3
RELG 348	Classical Hinduism.	3
RELG 350	Bhakti Hinduism.	3
RELG 353	Gandhi: His Life and Thought.	3
RELG 366	Rivers, Religion, and Environment in South Asia.	3
RELG 369	Tibetan Buddhism.	3
RELG 372	Hindu Goddesses.	3
RELG 378	Pilgrimage, Heritage, and Tourism.	3
RELG 444	Indian Ocean Religious Networks.	3
RELG 453	Vajrayana Buddhism.	3
RELG 454	Modern Hindu Thought.	3
RELG 544	Ethnography as Method in Religious Studies.	3
RELG 545	Ramayana: Multiple Lives.	3
RELG 546	Indian Philosophy.	3
RELG 547	Special Topics in Hinduism.	3
RELG 548	Indian Buddhist Philosophy.	3
RELG 551	Special Topics in Buddhism.	3
RELG 552	Advaita Vedanta.	3
RELG 556	Issues in Buddhist Studies.	3
RELG 558	Indian Tantric Traditions.	3
RELG 559	Caste and Dalits: Historical and Political Perspectives.	3
RELG 560	Buddhist Poetry.	3
SOCI 370	Sociology: Gender and Development.	3
SOCI 550	Developing Societies.	3

Additions may be made during a particular calendar year depending on the central focus of the courses, subject to adviser approval.

Maximum of 6 relevant transfer credits may be accepted from approved exchange programs subject to adviser and University approval.

Students may apply up to 6 credits in South Asian language study, with approval from the adviser.

Stream 2: Language

Either 18 credits in one of the following languages: Persian, Sanskrit, Tibetan, or Urdu-Hindi, from the courses listed below.

Or 18 credits of combined language study from courses listed below, consisting of 6 credits of one of Persian, Sanskrit, Tibetan, or Urdu-Hindi and 12 credits of another South Asian language from the courses listed below.

Note: Students should refer to the Course Catalogue to confirm any prerequisites for the following courses.

Persian

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Course	Title	Credits
ISLA 241D1	Introductory Persian.	3
ISLA 241D2	Introductory Persian.	3
ISLA 342D1	Lower Intermediate Persian.	3
ISLA 342D2	Lower Intermediate Persian.	3
ISLA 443D1	Upper Intermediate Persian.	3
ISLA 443D2	Upper Intermediate Persian.	3
ISLA 545	Advanced Persian 1.	3
ISLA 546	Advanced Persian 2.	3

Sanskrit

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Course	Title	Credits
RELG 257D1	Introductory Sanskrit.	3
RELG 257D2	Introductory Sanskrit.	3
RELG 357D1	Sanskrit 2.	3
RELG 357D2	Sanskrit 2.	3
RELG 457D1	Advanced Sanskrit.	3
RELG 457D2	Advanced Sanskrit.	3

Tibetan

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Course	Title	Credits
RELG 264	Introductory Tibetan 1.	3
RELG 265	Introductory Tibetan 2.	3
RELG 364	Intermediate Tibetan 1.	3
RELG 365	Intermediate Tibetan 2.	3
RELG 464	Advanced Tibetan 1.	3
RELG 465	Advanced Tibetan 2.	3

Urdu-Hindi

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Course	Title	Credits
ISLA 251D1	Introductory Urdu-Hindi.	3
ISLA 251D2	Introductory Urdu-Hindi.	3
ISLA 352D1	Intermediate Urdu-Hindi.	3
ISLA 352D2	Intermediate Urdu-Hindi.	3
ISLA 553	Advanced Urdu-Hindi 1.	3
ISLA 554	Advanced Urdu-Hindi 2.	3

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Maximum of 6 relevant transfer credits may be accepted from approved exchange programs subject to adviser and University approval.