**Approaches to Indian Society (HM 106)**

**AIM AND OBJECTIVES:**
The aim of this course is to present you with a social-scientific framework for the understanding of South Asian subcontinent with particular reference to social organization, politics, religion and symbolism illustrated within India as a nation-state and as a civilization.

This course is designed to provide you with the means to apply basic social science understanding of society, history and culture for the critical analysis of meanings, actions and explanations that is the basis for cultural diversity and unity of “India”. You will be expected to reflective and critical about the Indian society utilizing the readings and lectures.

Upon passing the course you should have a basic critical and analytical understanding of how social and cultural diversity of India could be approached and how the diversity of culture, is to be understood. As individuals living in the so called “Indian Society” the range of approaches presented in this course are expected to prepare you as a practitioner of technology that is successful and effective in communication of ideas and information from and for the India and India in relation to changing world. The assumption is that what we intend to act upon as agents in a society are contextualized by culture, history and society that conditions the very ‘transmission’ and ‘reception’ of meanings.

Teaching design of this course intends to expose you to range of readings of different types and encourage you to undertake team learning, individualized research, presentation of ideas and critical / reflexive thinking.

**Honors Code:** Academic dishonesty cheating, plagiarism or any kind of deceit-will not be tolerated, and will result in a zero for the assignment. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask. **All ideas and words that you did not generate yourself must be cited in your papers.** I do not anticipate this scenario for the work required in this class, but in extreme cases I reserve the right to assign a failing grade for the course or a specific assignment.
LECTURES
Do not expect that the material presented by the instructor in the lecture be all in the reading. Lectures will complement or will be based on the readings. Readings are basically for you to acquire an understanding of the ideas presented in the lecture. Each unit will first introduce you to the general theoretical and conceptual ideas invoked by the segment and then mesh the readings provided for you to reflect upon and develop your own understanding and analysis.
You are advised to do the readings before coming to the lecture. Readings and lectures together make up the ideas and concepts that each individual student is to acquire and develop.
Some lecture session will be reserved for students to raise questions and participate in a discussion. Instructor will assign students (as group) to lead certain discussion sessions, or make presentations. This is a course requirement and each group would be graded that would constitute 20% of your final grade.
The assigned presentations to be made by a group must reflect that the readings have been done, what is the central point made by the provided piece of writing and how it relates to the understanding you have in relation to the course and world around you.

CLASS ORGANIZATION
Entire class will be randomly broken up into ten groups and each one assigned to the group identified by number will continue to be in the assigned group. You cannot change for any reason from the group to which you have been assigned. The randomly created group details will be circulated for all. It will be each group’s responsibility to identify an individual as a group representative. The individual (either elected or volunteered) must provide the name, ID Number and email address by the third week of the course. It will be the responsibility of the selected individual to interface with the faculty on behalf of the group, make sure the assigned tasks are undertaken efficiently and on time.
Each group of students will be assigned to lead and make in class presentations. The same group of students in the last three weeks will make an in class presentation, using range of material (printed media, internet sites, popular films, music, literature) around a theme that would be selected by the group. This final presentation in class by the group must connect the ideas from the course to the sectors researched into. The presentations must bring in the readings and research along with group’s own analytical as well as reflective thinking. You are advised as a group to think ahead and get a topic approved by the course co-ordinator beforehand (around 9th or 10th week). Each group must work as a team and would be responsible for each one to pull their own weight and contribute.
I will assess the team at large as well as examine individual’s role in the team-work. On finding an individual not exhibiting participation in the team-work I will grade the individual down. So do not expect some individuals to work in a group for the others to have a comfortable time. It is expected that you work as a team, learn as a group and be responsible. All sessions for all students are essential. Do not assume that you can be only present when and if you desire. You will benefit from hearing what other students have said as the final exam would cover the material that may not be assigned to you or your group specifically.

EXAMS
Objective type exam, multiple choice type questions worth 75% of your final grade will be administered during mid term and end of the semester as per the schedule of the Institute. Entire course material, readings lectures, and class presentations will be covered in the exams. Most of the questions will test your understanding of the ideas, concepts and understanding. It will be not just questions to test what you may have memorized from the reading. Remembering this through out the course duration will help you to be better prepared to take the exams.
TEXT/READINGS/WORKLOAD:
A set of readings, especially selected for this course, will be available through the institute library. This is a compilation of the basic readings that you are expected to study from for this course. The readings are assigned on a “Unit” basis to back up lectures and to provide additional background information. Please follow the Reading Guide below. In order to do further research you will be expected to use the Library of the institute, particularly literature on Indian society and culture. You will be expected to come to the lectures prepared, by doing the readings before hand.

COURSE OUTLINE
PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME READINGS WILL BE ADDED OR DELETED DEPENDING ON THE AVAILABILITY AND CHANGING REQUIREMENT OF THE COURSE. FROM TIME TO TIME YOU WILL BE INFORMED ABOUT THIS IN THE LECTURES.

Unit 1.
INTRODUCTION: Presenting, Representing, and Conceptualizing India: Idea of India and the view of “Indians” (App week-1-3)

- Geertz, Clifford. 1973 Deep play: notes on the Balinese cockfight.
- Fabian
- Pletsch, Carl E. 1981 The three worlds, or the division of social scientific labour, circa 1950-1975.
- Ramanujan A.K. “Some thoughts on ‘Non-Western’ Classics: With Indian Examples”
- Barrow, I. 2003 Making history Drawing Territory pp1-34, 182-185
- Srinivas MN “Indian Village: Myth and Reality” pp 3-39
- Srinivas MN “The insider versus the outsider in the study of civilization” pp 533-560
- “Village Study”
- Edward Said Orientalism (Introduction and Chapter 1)
- Inden, R. 1990 Imagining India 1990 pp7-84
- Cohn, B. 1987 “The Census, Social Structure an Objectification in South Asia” An Anthropologist among the Historians and other Essays pp224-254
- Dirks, N “The Ethnographic State” Postcolonial Passages:Contemporary History-writing on India S.Dube (ed) 2004 pp70-84
- Srinivas MN “Nation Building in Independent India” pp 388-413
- “ Science Technology and rural development in India” pp 414- 428
- “ Changing institutions and values in modern India” pp 443-456.
- Beteille, A. 2002 “Sociology and Area Study: The South Asian Experience” In Sociology pp 121-133, (301 BET 0054)

Unit 2. Social Structure and Social Organization of South Asian Society (App week 3 to 6)
Religion

- Nicholas, R 2003 “The Goddess Sitala and Epidemic Smallpox in Bengal” In Fruits of Worship: Practical Religion in Bengal
- Madan, TN 1987 “The Quest for Hinduism” In Non-Renunciation pp 142-167

Caste

- Dumont, L Homo Hierarchus, The Caste System and its implications. (Introduction, Chapter 1,2,3, and 4)
- Srinivas M N “Varna and Caste” pp166-172
  - “A note on Sanskritization and Westernization” pp 200-220
  - “The cohesive role of Sanskritization” pp 221-235
  - “Caste in Modern India” pp 251-276.

Women and the Family

- Srinivas MN “The changing position of Indian Women” pp 279-300
- Moreno, M. 1988 A bride for Raman. Are marriages in India made in heaven?
- Goldstein, M.C. 1987 When brothers share a wife.
- Uberoi, P 2003 “Chicks, Kids, and Couples”
- Uberoi, P 2006 “Beeautiful Wife, Denger Life, Engaging with Popular Culture”
- "Women to Burn: Suttee as a Normative Institution"

Unit 3. The rituals of Nationhood: from Colonialism to Nationalism in India (App. Week 6-8)
• Tarlo E. “Searching for a Solution in the late 19th Century” In Clothing Matters. Pp 23-61
• Appadurai, A 1997 “Playing with modernity: the decolonization of Indian Cricket” In Modernity at Large. Pp 89-113

• Sundar Pushpa 1995 “Where is your dance” In Patrons and Philistines. Pp 236-256
• Subramaniam, L 2006 “On the margins of the Classical” In From the Tanjore Court to the Madras Music Academy.
• Bhattacharya, S 2003 Vandematram: The Biography of a song, pp 1-95
• Amin, S 1984 “Gandhi as Mahatma: Gorakhpur District, Eastern UP 1921-2” In Subaltern Studies III pp 1-61
• Chaterjee, P 1984 “Gandhi and the Critique of Civil Society” ” In Subaltern Studies III pp 153-195.
• Chowdhury, I 1998 The frail hero and virile History, Gender and the politics of Culture in colonial Bengal. (selection)
• Chaterjee, P & Pandey, G 1992 Subaltern Studies VII (selection)
• Chaterjee, P, 1999 The Partha Chaterjee Omnibus. (selection)

Unit 4. LANGUAGE, RELIGION, TERRITORY AND IDENTITY: Concordance and Discordance in S. Asian community (App week 9-11)

• Sumathy Ramaswamy- Passions of the Tongue
• Charu Gupta-
• David Washbrook, "Law, State and Agrarian Society in Colonial India," Modern Asian Studies, 15, 3((1981), 649-721

Unit 5. India in the age of globalization: “Phir bhiil hai Hindustani…” (App week 11-13)

• India Abroad- Sandhya Sukla
• Nandini Chandra 1999 “The Cultural Logic of Amar Chitra Katha”
• Ajanta Sircar 1999 “Stars and signs’ of Bombay”
• Tapati Guha-Thakurta 2004 “Art history and the nude”
• Dusenbery, V 1990 “On the Moral Sensitivities of Sikhs in North America” In *Devine Passions* Srinivas MN “Unity and Diversity in India”
• Borden,C (ed)1989  *Contemporary Indian Tradition*. Pp 93- 120.(paper by Girish Karnad and Gulam Sheikh)
• Tyrrell, H 1999 “Bollywood versus Hollywood: Battle of the dream factories”
• Uberoi,P 2006 “The Diaspora Comes Home:Disciplining Desire in DDLJ”