South Asian Studies

South Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary concentration in which students work across the humanities and social sciences, geographical locations, and time periods. The concentration emphasizes both the diversity of South Asia as a region, as well as the long-term historical connections among people and places in Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. The concentration takes a comparative approach, bringing attention to history, politics, and culture within the region, as well as in the equally vital global South Asian diaspora.

Course Requirements

All South Asian Studies concentrators must take and pass 10 courses as approved by their concentration advisor. Students who wish to earn honors must take 12 courses total (see Senior-Year Project below).

SAST 0700	Introduction to Modern South Asia	1
or HIST 1620	Resisting Empire: Gandhi and the Making of Modern South Asia	
Two courses in the Humanities with a majority focus in South Asia, such as:		**2**
CLAS 0995	India's Classical Performing Arts	
CLAS 1140	Classical Philosophy of India	
COST 0030	Sound, Song and Salvation in South Asia	
COST 0034	Dharma: A History of Classical Indian Civilization	
COST 0035	Saints and Mystics of India	
COST 0036	Love and War in India	
COST 0037	Sensing the Sacred: Sensory Culture in South Asian Religions	
COST 0140	Food, Religion and Politics in South Asia	
COST 0145	Karma, Rebirth and Liberation: Life and Death in South Asian Religions	
COST 0525	The History and Practice of Yoga in India and Beyond	
COST 0526	This Whole World is OM: Mantras in Indian Religions	
HIAA 0013	Introduction to Indian Art	
HIAA 0023	South Asian Art and Architecture	
LITR 1231K	Innovations in Indian Literature	
RELS 0096	The Imaginary Lives of Muslims	
RELS 1510	Islamic Imaginaries from South Asia	
RELS 0036	Love and War in India	
RELS 0037	Sensing the Sacred: Sensory Culture in South Asian Religions	
RELS 0526	This Whole World is OM: Mantras in Indian Religions	
Two courses in the Social Sciences with a majority focus on South Asia, such as:		**2**
HIST 1979D	Ruined History: Visual and Material Culture in South Asia	
POLS 1280	The Rise of India: History, Politics, Economics and Society	
POLS 1821O	Politics of Economic Development in Asia	
POLS 2320	Ethnic Conflict	
POLS 2330	Politics in India	
SAST 0750	Understanding the Indian Economy	
SAST 0725	Political Ecology in South Asia	
SAST 0526	This Whole World is OM: Mantras in Indian Religions	
SAST 0525	The History and Practice of Yoga in India and Beyond	
SAST 0140	Food, Religion and Politics in South Asia	
SAST 0037	Sensing the Sacred: Sensory Culture in South Asian Religions	
SAST 0034	Dharma: A History of Classical Indian Civilization	
At least five additional elective courses. Students can take additional courses in the humanities or social sciences with a focus on South Asia, such as:		**5**
At least three of the five electives must be drawn from the department pre-approved course listings (or be approved by the DUS/Concentration advisor). The courses on this pre-approved list have significant (at least 25%) South Asia content.		
No more than two of the remaining electives can be courses with less empirical South Asia content, but these courses must have theoretical relevance to the study of South Asia (with the approval from the DUS).		
ANTH 0100	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	
ANTH 2320	Anthropology and Development: Critical Ethnographic Perspectives	
COST 0032	Music and Meditation	
COST 0100	Introduction to Contemplative Studies	
ECON 0510	Development and the International Economy	
ECON 1530	Health, Hunger and the Household in Developing Countries	
ECON 2510	Economic Development I	
HIAA 0081	Architecture of the House Through Space and Time	
HIST 0150D	Refugees: A Twentieth-Century History	
HIST 1440	The Ottomans: Faith, Law, Empire	
HNDI 0200	Beginning Hindi or Urdu	
HNDI 0400	Intermediate Hindi-Urdu	
HNDI 1080	Advanced Hindi-Urdu	
MCM 1505O	Does Utopia Still Exist? Media, politics and the hope of something else	
POLS 0200	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
POLS 1380	Ethnic Politics and Conflict	
RELS 0100	Buddhist Thought, Practice, and Society	
SAST 1970	Independent Study	
SANS 0200	Elementary Sanskrit II	
SANS 0400	Classical Sanskrit Story Literature	
SANS 1030	The Bhāgavata Purāṇa: Text and Reception	
SANS 1100	Vedic Sanskrit	
Total Credits		**10**

Language Requirements

Proficiency in a South Asian language is required for the concentration. Demonstrating proficiency can entail passing a written and oral examination, 4 semesters of formal language study at Brown or another institution, or a high school transcript indicating that the language of instruction for all courses was a South Asian language. Native Hindi/Urdu speakers are encouraged to fulfill the language requirement by taking another South Asian language for four semester, such as Sanskrit at Brown or a relevant language at another institution. Up to two language courses can count toward fulfilling the student's elective requirements.

An **Honors Thesis** is a two-semester independent study supervised by a thesis advisor (SAST 1970). These two courses constitute the additional courses needed for honors in the concentration.

An honors thesis can be textual, or it can take other forms (multi-media, visual, artistic, or musical, for example). The form and substance of a non-textual honors thesis must conform to the rigorous regulations set out by the relevant department(s) and the Dean of the College.

Additional Honors Requirements

To be eligible for Honors, students will have earned an “A” in the majority of graded courses for the concentration.

Students may graduate with Honors in South Asian Studies by completing an undergraduate Honors thesis under the supervision of at least one reader drawn from the South Asian Studies faculty* and one additional reader from the Brown (or RISD, in the case of Brown-RISD students) faculty community.

In order to pursue Honors, students must submit the following materials to the South Asian studies Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) by the end of their 6th semester:

1. A prospectus (3-5 pages, describing the major research questions and methods to be used, complete with bibliography) that has been read and vetted by the student’s intended primary reader.
2. An email from the faculty member who will serve as primary reader to the South Asian Studies DUS noting their willingness to advise the thesis.

In addition, students must:

1. Enroll in a two-semester sequence of independent study [SAST 1970 or under a relevant departmental course code].
2. Designate a second reader by the end of the first month of their 7th semester. Second readers should also confirm their willingness to serve as a reader by sending an email to the South Asian Studies DUS.
3. Be in regular contact with thesis advisor about the progress of the project.
4. Present their research to the Saxena Center community during their final semester.

For **mid-year graduating students**, the topic and primary reader must be identified and confirmed by mid-November of the junior year, and a second reader must be arranged and confirmed by January 30 of the senior year.

* This includes all people listed under the Faculty, Postdoctoral Associate, and Visiting Scholars (limited to those in residence at Brown) tabs on the Saxena Center website

Senior-Year Project

Students must complete either a senior capstone project OR an honors thesis.

Capstone projects or honors theses are opportunities for students to creatively synthesize the thinking on South Asia that they have developed during the concentration. The project should exhibit an empirically and theoretically driven research question or argument about some aspect of South Asian Studies. the senior-year project should involve some research in at least one South Asian language.

All students are encouraged to start thinking about their capstones in their junior year.

Capstones can take two primary forms:

1. A research paper of approximately 30 pages on a topic related to South Asia for an existing concentration-eligible course, undertaken with the permission of the instructor.
2. An independent study-based project. the produce and/or process that constitutes this can be artistic, primary or secondary research-based, internship-related, or something else. the project must be supervised by at least one South Asian Studies faculty member* for at least one semester under SAST 1970. This course can count towards the five elective requirement.

At the end of the junior year, each student should meet with the Director of Undergraduate Study (DUS) to review their plan for completing their capstone. If pursuing a capstone project, students will be required to submit, by the end of the shopping period of the fall of their senior year, a short proposal (300 words) that describes how they are going to complete this requirement.