

# SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES



2008-2009

ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

## SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Web: [www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc/academics/southasia.html](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc/academics/southasia.html)

The South Asian Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) is dedicated to promoting knowledge about the history, society, and culture of the countries of South Asia, one of the world's most dynamic and influential regions. To that end it provides training in some of the languages of that part of the world and in area studies through a variety of courses. The South Asia Studies Center encourages multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, and facilitates the exchange of ideas and information through seminars, conferences, and outreach activities for members of both the academic and local communities. The Asian Studies Center (ASC) at Pitt, part of the University Center for International Studies, directs these activities.



Photo by Anoop Negi

One of the most valuable resources for the continued growth of South Asia Studies at Pitt is the Pittsburgh Indian community. The Pittsburgh area is home to the ninth-largest Indian population in the U.S. The western PA region has five temples to serve this community: the Jain-Hindu Temple; the Sri Venkatesh-wara Temple; the Sikh Gurdwara Temple; the Sri Sai Baba Temple; and the Iskcon (Hari Krishna) Commune in nearby West Virginia. There is a South Asian Muslim center in the area, as well as a mosque constructed for families of South Asian descent.

Pitt has been a member of the American Institute of India Studies since 1979. The University also is home to the Center for the Performing Arts of India, which sponsors many classical music and dance-drama events throughout each year. Pitt has in the past also supported the *Encyclopedia of Hinduism* project.

## Study Abroad

Web: [www.abroad.pitt.edu/](http://www.abroad.pitt.edu/)

Each summer the Pitt in India study abroad program introduces students to the fascinating country of India. The University of Pittsburgh's Study Abroad Office, sponsors a summer program at the University of Hyderabad in India. Students can earn academic credits during a seven week period that includes field trips, ethnographic opportunities, directed study, and course offerings from the University of Hyderabad's Study India Program (SIP).



Photo by P. Vee

### Study Abroad Scholarships

At the University of Pittsburgh, Study Abroad scholarships, Provost's Scholarships for Study Abroad, and Nationality Room scholarships are applicable to the Pitt in India program as well as state and federal financial aid and most Pitt scholarships.

The University of Hyderabad is a strong research and teaching university with a computerized library and an internationally connected faculty. It is situated on a large campus outside the city of Hyderabad, the 5th largest city in India. Hyderabad's history dates from the 10th century. University guesthouses are available for all study abroad students.

### Indian Nationality Classroom

Web: [www.pitt.edu/~natrooms/countries/indian.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~natrooms/countries/indian.html)

The Indian Nationality Classroom is modeled after a typical instructional courtyard at Nalanda University in central India, which was a center of learning that flourished between the 3rd and 9th centuries C.E., the time of India's "Golden Age." Guided or audio tours can be arranged through the Information Desk at the Cathedral of Learning.



Photo by Jimmy Lin

### Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL)

Web: [www.linguistics.pitt.edu/lctl/index.htm](http://www.linguistics.pitt.edu/lctl/index.htm)

The Department of Linguistics, through the Less-Commonly Taught Languages Center, offers opportunities for the study of languages not otherwise available in the University curriculum. The Center will undertake the development of a course of study for any modern language for which adequate instructional materials exist, except for those which are taught in the regular foreign language departments of the University. Languages of India in the recent past that have been offered by LCTL include **Hindi** and **Bengali**.



Photo by Trey Ratcliff

## Courses

The South Asia Studies program can offer a selection of courses from several departments in the College of Arts & Sciences. Students may pursue more advanced course work in India Studies by enrolling in Independent Studies courses with specific faculty members.

### **Anthropology**

- *Alternative Health & Healing*
- *Dimensions of Aging: Culture & Health*
- *Cultures & Societies of India*
- *Asian Medical Systems*
- *Archaeology of South & Southeast Asia*
- *Special Topics: Ethno-National Violence*
- *Archaeology of the Indian Subcontinent*

### **Classics**

*Sanskrit - Levels 1-4*

### **Fine Arts**

*Art of India*

*Hindu Art*

*Special Topics: India*

### **History**

*Religion in India 1 & 2*

### **Music**

*Music in South Asia*

*Introduction to World Music*

### **Graduate School of Public & International Affairs (GSPIA)**

*Child Soldiers: From Ethics to Geo-Strategy*

*Regional Development Seminar: India*

### **Religious Studies**

*Buddhist Civilizations*

*Death & Beyond Buddhist Culture*

*Mysticism: East & East*

*Religion & Civilization in South Asia*

*Religion in India 1 & 2*

*Temple, Icon, & Deity in India*

*Saints East & West: Mysticism East & West*

## Asian Studies Center

The countries of Asia are playing an increasingly important role in an ever-expanding globe. Not only does the majority of the earth's population live in Asia, but the nations of that world area boast some of the world's strongest economies. Because that part of the world impacts our lives daily, it is especially important to understand this critical region.



Photo by Akshay Mahajan

The Asian Studies Center (ASC) is part of the University's Center for International Studies and has a long tradition of excellence at the University of Pittsburgh. Established in 1969 to promote broader knowledge and an enhanced understanding of the nations of South, Southeast, East Asia and the Pacific Islands, the Center today continues to enrich the University and the community at large.

The ASC holds many South Asia-related events each academic year, such as 2007's "Global Health and Sustainable Development—Pitt and India" symposium, as well as many informal talks by guests, faculty, and graduate students during the weekly Asia Over Lunch lecture series.



Photo by Akshay Mahajan

## Certificate Programs

Students enrolled in BA, MA, or PhD degree programs in any department or professional school at Pitt may earn a Certificate in Asian Studies with a focus on South Asia. The certificate is another academic credential for students who want to intensify their study of South Asia – either because they intend to use their knowledge of that critical part of the world in their careers after graduation, or because they realize the importance of an understanding of South Asian history, language and culture as part of their liberal arts education.

Upon graduation, both the academic degree and *Certificate in Asian Studies* are posted on the student's transcript.

**Undergraduate Requirements** for a SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES certificate in Asian Studies include:

1. Two years (four terms) of a vernacular South Asian language at the college level, or equivalent proficiency. If the Sanskrit language is chosen, only three terms are required to fulfill certificate requirements.
2. Four courses (12 credits) on South Asia, in at least two departments outside the major.
3. One course (three credits) on South Asia in the major department. If the major does not have options for a "South Asia" focus (e.g., chemistry, English), the student must take an additional South Asia-related course in a third department.

**Graduate Requirements** for a SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES certificate in Asian Studies include:

1. Three years (six terms) of a vernacular South Asian language at the college level, or equivalent proficiency. If the Sanskrit language is chosen, two years (four terms) are required to fulfill the graduate certificate requirements.
2. Five upper-level courses or graduate seminars dealing with South Asia, in at least two departments.
3. A research paper: either a seminar paper or thesis/dissertation. The paper can be used to complete departmental requirements for a graduate degree as well as the certificate, but must include research using the student's knowledge of a South Asian language.

## Faculty

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