

# South Asian Studies Courses (Asian and Slavic Languages and Literature) (SOAS)

This is a list of South Asian studies courses. For more information, see Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures.

**SOAS:1502 Asian Humanities: India** 3 s.h.  
Introduction to 4,000 years of South Asian civilization through popular stories. Taught in English. GE: Values and Culture. Same as ASIA:1502, RELS:1502.

**SOAS:1550 Sex, Music, and Pop Culture in India** 3 s.h.  
Exploration of debates and conflicts around gender and sexuality in Indian and South Asian popular culture, particularly music; shifting representations of gender relations, sexuality, gender/sexual identities in Indian music; focus on postcolonial period; how folk music, film songs, and classical music (among other genres) have dealt with issues such as changing conceptions of womanhood or masculinity, "queer" or gender/sexually variant communities and identities; how popular culture has negotiated questions of gender and sexuality in relation to nationhood, globalization, and cultural identity.

**SOAS:1620 Bhagavad Gita: Essential Teachings of Indian Religion** 3 s.h.  
Students read the Bhagavad Gita and discuss its interpretations and use in classical and modern religious, literary, and political contexts; composed around 2000 years ago, it is the best known and most influential religious text in Indian history and concisely addresses war and peace, duty and righteousness, renunciation, devotion, and the nature of the universe; its been read, debated, and discussed by ancient philosophers, modern religious teachers, and political figures such as Mahatma Gandhi, the father of modern Independent India. Same as RELS:1620, TRNS:1620.

**SOAS:2901 First-Year Sanskrit: First Semester** 4 s.h.  
Grammar, basic vocabulary; elementary readings. Offered fall semesters of even years. Requirements: undergraduate standing. GE: World Languages First Level Proficiency. Same as CLSA:2901.

**SOAS:2902 First-Year Sanskrit: Second Semester** 4 s.h.  
Readings in epic and story literature. Offered spring semesters of odd years. Requirements: undergraduate standing. GE: World Languages Second Level Proficiency. Same as CLSA:2902.

**SOAS:3500 Queerness in South Asian Literature and Cinema** 3 s.h.  
Debates and conflicts around gender or sexual variance in South Asian cultural spheres; shifting representations of queerness—a broad label for non-normative gender/sexual practices or identities—in literature and films from India and neighboring regions; diverse constructions of gender/sexuality in precolonial India; focus on postcolonial period when regulation of deviant gender/sexuality became tied to colonial administration and emerging national identity; how cultural representations constructed normative or deviant genders/sexualities in relation to class, caste, and nationhood.

**SOAS:3644 Gandhi and His Legacy** 0-1,3 s.h.  
In-depth introduction to the life, ideas, and ongoing impact of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948); from his conservative upbringing to his early career as a lawyer, his transformative experiences, and self-transformation into a charismatic mahatma ("great soul"), the pursuit of political and social liberation through non-violent civil disobedience, the assertion of human rights, and the quest for sustainable lifestyles that uphold the common good and protect the natural environment; evolution of Gandhi's thought and activism and his legacy. Same as HIST:3644, RELS:3644.

**SOAS:3901 Second-Year Sanskrit: First Semester** 3 s.h.  
Readings in epic and puranic texts. Offered fall semesters of odd years. Requirements: undergraduate standing. GE: World Languages Second Level Proficiency. Same as CLSA:3901.

**SOAS:3902 Second-Year Sanskrit: Second Semester** 3 s.h.  
The Bhagavad Gita and related religious/philosophical texts. Offered spring semesters of even years. Requirements: undergraduate standing. GE: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency. Same as CLSA:3902.

**SOAS:4103 Individual Hindi** arr.  
Readings in medieval and modern Hindi.

**SOAS:4802 South Asian Research Seminar** arr.  
Faculty and student research.

**SOAS:5201 Individual Sanskrit for Advanced Students** arr.  
Research, translation projects. Requirements: fourth-year proficiency.