

**Department of Sociology**  
**Introduction to South Asia**  
***The Sociology of Everyday Life***

**Objective**

The course is aimed at generating a general interest among students towards the culture and society that characterises South Asia. Methodologically, this process is conceived of as consisting of subject matter that would generate interest among students. In order to achieve this, the course relies on themes that students encounter in their everyday lives such as food, religion, theatre, cinema, etc. The course will consist of the following basic structure and will evolve over the semester while some readings from the select bibliography below will be used in the discussions.

**Structure**

**1. Everyday social relations: Love, hatred and violence**

This section introduces students to contemporary developments in the countries of South Asia. Through the contemporary, it makes an entry into the past, and explores the possibilities of the future.

**2. Religious regimes in South Asia: Transcending the competing appearances**

This section touches upon one of the most contested domains in the countries of this region. While violence is fostered through the intersectionality of religion and polity, the region also has a rich history of religious movements which promote tolerance and which have connected with the masses cutting across differences.

**3. Areas where territorial boundaries may not exist: Food, cinema, poetry and craft**

In their everyday lives, people inhabiting the region consume food, cinema and other mediums of art and literature. This section will focus on how a kind of South Asian sensibility might be created or might already exist on the basis of culinary and artistic traits in the region.

**Mode of Evaluation**

This component of the course is worth 50 marks. Evaluation will be based on 2 essays worth 25 marks each.

### Select Bibliography

Selections from the following texts will be used in the course in addition to films, slides and music:

Ahmed, Nazneen (2014) 'The poetics of nationalism: Cultural resistance and poetry in East Pakistan/Bangladesh, 1952–71', *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, Vol. 50, No. 3, pp. 256–268

Ahmad, Ali Nobil (2014) 'Film and Cinephilia in Pakistan: Beyond Life and Death', *BioScope* 5(2), pp.81–98

Ahmed, Akbar S. (May, 1992) 'Bombay Films: The Cinema as Metaphor for Indian Society and Politics', *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 26, No. 2, pp. 289-320

Asani, Ali S. (Spring, 1988) 'Sufi Poetry in the Folk Tradition of Indo-Pakistan', *Religion & Literature*, Vol. 20, No. 1, *The Literature of Islam*, pp. 81- 94

Appadurai, Arjun (Aug., 1981) 'Gastro-Politics in Hindu South Asia', *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 8, No. 3, Symbolism and Cognition, pp. 494-511

Beardsworth, Alan and Keil, Teresa (1997) *Sociology on the Menu*, Routledge: London and New York, pp. 242-253

Dadi, Iftikhar (2010) 'BioScopic and Screen Studies of Pakistan, and of Contemporary Art', *BioScope* 1(1) pp.11–15

Dissanayake, Wimal (1994) 'Cinema, nationhood and cultural discourse in Sri Lanka', in Dissanayake, Wimal (ed.) *Colonialism and Nationalism in Asian Cinema*, Indian University Press: Bloomington, pp.190-201

Orsini, Francesca (ed., 2007) *Love in South Asia: A Cultural History*, Cambridge University Press: New Delhi

Raju, Zakir Hossain (2015) *Bangladesh Cinema and National Identity: In search of the modern?*, Routledge: New York

Russell, Ralph (1992) *The Pursuit of Urdu Literature: A Short History*, Zed Books, pp.229-247