

AIS 095C: INTRODUCTION TO SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES

Lecture: MWF 10:10-11:00am L107

Instructor: Emily Manetta

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Room 301

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Office Hours: Monday 2:30-3:30

Course Description:

This course provides a detailed introduction to the languages spoken across South Asia, including languages of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Having first established an understanding of the history of the language families of the region, we will explore the sounds and structures these languages share, as well as what makes each group unique. We will conclude with an examination of current social and political issues concerning language and language policy in the region. This course will serve as background for the student preparing for study or instruction in a South Asian language, or for students with an interest or heritage in languages and cultures of the subcontinent. We will take advantage of a wide range of media, including film and original recordings of minority languages. Students will be asked to complete an individual project on a language of their choice.

Requirements:

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| Weekly homework | 30% |
| Midterm | 30% |
| Final Paper | 20% |
| Squib | 10% |
| Participation | 10% |

Course Notes:

- No previous experience with South Asian languages or with Linguistics is required.
- Group work on homework and take-home midterm is encouraged. Problems/questions are designed to be solved working together. However, the write-up of the problem sets must be done on your own.
- Plagiarism is defined as any time that you present another's work as your own. Be sure to give credit or cite sources whenever necessary. If you have any questions about how to avoid plagiarism, please ask.
- Late work: Late work can receive no greater than half credit. There are no exceptions. However, the lowest assignment score will be dropped.

Syllabus:

Week 1: Introduction to South Asian Languages: history, geography, languages, dialects

Reading: Cardona, Bashir

Week 2: Linguistics

Reading: Bhatt, Grierson

Sounds

Week 3: Phonetics: Sounds of South Asian Languages

Week 4: Phonology: Syllable

Week 5: Phonology: Sandhi

Forms and Structures

Week 6: Grammatical functions, phrase structure

Week 7: Morphology (Squib due, Friday October 13)

Week 8: Syntax: Agreement, Ergativity

Reading: Bhatt

Week 9: Syntax: Questions, wh-movement

Reading: Manetta

Language and Culture

Week 10: Writing Systems (Take-home midterm due in class Wednesday November 1)

Week 11: Language and Culture in South Asia

Week 12: Language and Education Policy in South Asia

Week 13: Thanksgiving Break

Week 14: Wrap-up, in class presentations

Week 14: Final paper due Wednesday, December 6 (in class)

*We will do our best to stick to this ambitious schedule. However, make sure you check the WebCT for updated due dates and assignments.