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:
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.