SPRING 2014

AAS330/LIN. 355 Language & Society: South Asia Prof. K. Sridhar
Class Time: Tu/TTh 1-2.20 Room 305, Frey Hall
Office: 1117 Humanities Office Hours: Tu/Th 11.30-12.45
Email: ksridhar@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

Textbook:
Language in South Asia, eds. by Braj Kachru, Yamuna Kachru, and S.N. Sridhar
Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2008 (Available at the campus bookstore. Chapters assigned)

Reading assignments on the Blackboard.

Course Requirements
Attendance (Taken in every class) 10%
In-class Midterm Examination: 35%
In-class presentation of project 30%
Final Project on SafeAssign 25%

Please check the Blackboard frequently for updates, new materials, and information about class cancellations due to inclement weather.

About Attendance: Attendance is taken in every class. If you are more than 10 minutes late, you are marked absent for the day. So, make sure you are on time.

More than 3 absences means grade reduction, an A will become A- or B+, depending on the number of absences.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able:

- to state the most important basic facts about the countries of South Asia, such as population, linguistic diversity, religions, political structure, cultural and socio-economic diversity, South Asian diaspora, and developmental issues;
- to identify India’s contributions to world civilization in several areas, such as the sciences, arts, philosophy, politics, and economics;
- to read basic material relating to India/South Asia using appropriate reference works, where necessary;
- to recognize and correct gross stereotypes intelligently, and with confidence, about South Asia in the media and other avenues
**Final Project:** You will be given a list of topics and divided into groups. Each group will choose a topic from a bowl. You will work in groups of 4 and the results will be presented to the entire class, in the form of power-point presentation, during the last 2 weeks of classes. Each member of the group has to contribute to the presentation, present the materials in class. No presentation means 0 points for final. Topics for final project and sign-up sheets will be made available after the add/drop period is over.

**DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS) STATEMENT (must be the following language)**
If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services (631) 632-6748 or http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dss/. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.
Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website:
http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities/asp.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT (must be the following language as approved by the undergrad council):**
Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instance of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/

**CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (must be the following language as approved by the undergrad council):**
Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits students' ability to learn.

**TENTATIVE SYLLABUS**

**Jan. 28, 30:** Introduction. Course objectives, organization, and requirements. Why is it important to study languages in South Asia for linguists, and for students of culture and society?

**Feb. 4, 6:** South Asia: Rich and complex history reflected in the language situation. Complexity of the language scene. Languages of South Asia: How many? Why is it difficult to give a definitive answer? Readings: LISA Ch 1 (Asher), Readings on Blackboard, **Video:** Story of India, Part I
Feb. 11, 13
How different are the languages from one another? Typology of S. Asian languages; Historical Evolution of the Languages of South Asia (Notes and Discussion in class)

Feb. 18, 20, 25: Dynamics of Bilingual Communication – Functions of bilingualism in S. Asia; Notion of a Verbal Repertoire; Pragmatic Hierarchy; Code Switching and Code-Mixing; Minority Languages; Languages of Wider Communication (Sanskrit, Hindi-Urdu, Persian, English)
LISA Ch. 10 Pp. 223-234; Ch. 6 132-152; Reading on Blackboard

Feb. 27 Mar. 4 Effect of bilingualism on language structure, use, and attitudes, and 6, 11 planning; Urdu, Sanskritization, Persianization, Hindization, and Englishization of S. Asian languages; Borrowing, Language Contact and Language Convergence
LISA Ch. 11, 12, 15;

March 13: In-class Midterm (Cumulative, 100 multiple-choice questions)

March 17-23 Spring Break

Marc 25-27: Writing systems of South Asia. LISA, Ch.14, Pp. 285-308

Apr 1, 3: English in South Asia and South Asian English

Apr 8, : Use of Language in selected domains: Language in Education -- Three Language Formula; The Language of Religion LISA Ch. 21, Pp. 407-426

April 10: Social Meaning and Linguistic Structure: Politeness; Respect; Taboos; Use of Languages in Social Contexts. LISA Ch. 17, Pp. 345-360

April 15, 17: South Asians in the Diaspora
Cuisine of India
Video: DESIS

April 22, 24, 29: In-class presentations
May 1, 6, 8