Instructor: Priti Narayan  
Class time: Tuesdays and Fridays, 12:35 to 1:55 pm  
Location: Ruth Adams Building 204, Cook Douglass Campus  
Office: Lucy Stone Hall B 239, Livingston Campus  
Office hours: Tuesdays, 3:30 to 5 pm  
Email: priti.narayan@rutgers.edu  

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course fulfills a Contemporary Challenges (CC) requirement in the SAS Core Curriculum. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to analyze a contemporary global issue from a multidisciplinary perspective, and analyze different perspectives on contemporary issues and social justice.

The course will introduce students to the region of South Asia, defined in this course as comprising India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal. We will critically engage with issues in the human geographies of the subcontinent from the mid 20th Century onwards, with an emphasis on development and urbanization processes.

Considering that in the next three decades, the global population growth is likely to be entirely urban (UN Habitat 2010) and South Asia's urban population alone is projected to be one billion (Ansari 2009), processes of urban development in the subcontinent are now globally significant. The goal of this course is two-fold. First, it will locate South Asia both in its particular socio-historical and economic context, through critical engagement with colonialism, social difference, and governance, in order to understand development and urbanization in the region. Second, urbanization in South Asia will be used as a lens to examine global capital circulation.

The first half of the course will aim to cover these themes through lectures, movie / documentary screenings and discussions. *Readings are expected to be done ahead of classes every week, so you actively participate in class discussions and ask questions.* Readings are likely to be from both academic and non-academic sources. *All readings will be made available on the course site on Sakai by the instructor.* Students do not need to buy any books.
The second part of the course will provide an opportunity for students to explore themes of their choice that will broaden their own, as well as their peers’ understanding of the region. These themes are subject to prior approval from the instructor.

EVALUATION

1. **Attendance and participation: 20%**
   Students are required to attend classes regularly, read the required texts and actively participate in class discussions.

2. **Quizzes: 20% (2 quizzes, 10% each)**
   Students will take two quizzes over the course of the semester (see schedule below), for 45 minutes each. Questions will be based on course readings and class discussions, and will require short answers and identifications in response.

3. **Midterm exam – in class, blue book: 30%**
   Two essays must be written in response to prompts based on themes and readings and class discussions.

4. **Final presentation and essay: 30% (10% for presentation, 20% for essay)**
   In place of a final exam, students will make a 10-minute presentation and write a five-page essay on a topic of their choice. Each presentation-and-essay will aim to explore a theme that has not been covered in the course, so that students have a chance to expand their knowledge on South Asia. Midway through the semester, students will be asked to choose a topic and provide a 2-line description of the topic, for approval by the instructor. The essay must cite at least four academic texts (journal articles or book chapters) and two non-academic texts (newspaper articles, works of fiction, films, documentaries). Possible topics include (but are not limited to): Bhutan’s Gross National Happiness Index, liberalization and its impacts, war and the economy in Afghanistan / Sri Lanka, disaster and foreign aid in South Asia, urbanization trends in Nepal. **There will be no final exam.**

5. **Extra credit: 2%**
   Students can earn extra credit by attending at least two events hosted by the Rutgers South Asian Studies Program (SASP) and submitting a one page critical summary of the event. The list of events is available here: [https://southasia.rutgers.edu/news-events/current-events#](https://southasia.rutgers.edu/news-events/current-events#)
ABSENCES
If you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email will automatically be sent to me. If you do not do this, your absence will be considered unapproved. Absences for religious observance should be reported through this same system.

PLAGIARISM
Rutgers University views plagiarism as a very serious offense. Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly. Some common examples of plagiarism include copying something word for word (from an oral, printed, or electronic source) without proper attribution, paraphrasing without proper attribution, or submitting a purchased, downloaded, or one’s own already-submitted paper. If you are unsure how to cite or acknowledge someone else’s words or ideas, please ask. Cases of plagiarism will be pursued following university regulations, which can be found at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu

TECHNOLOGY POLICY
Cell phones and all other non-note-taking technological devices must be turned off during class out of respect for the instructor and fellow students.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES
Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with me about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

FREE & RESPECTFUL SPEECH AT RUTGERS
As the state university, Rutgers is governed by the US Constitution's First Amendment prohibition on the impairment of protected speech rights. We also recognize the importance of free speech for democratic societies and the centrality of the free exchange of ideas in the academic mission.

The Department of Geography further recognizes that this is a time when there is discussion regarding bigotry, racism, anti-Semitism, and white supremacy in our society.
Rutgers stands for dialogue and inclusion. We can and do live with disagreement and divergent ideologies, and these are welcome in the classroom. However, the department asks for and expects respectful participation in class discussions. While the full details of university policy can be found below, the department affirms the position that disruptive behavior has no place here. [http://policies.rutgers.edu/sites/policies/files/00011251.PDF](http://policies.rutgers.edu/sites/policies/files/00011251.PDF)

**COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS**
*subject to changes over the course of the semester*

**Tue, Sep 4: Introduction to course**

**Fri, Sep 7: A view on 'development'**

**Week 2 (Tue, Sep 11 and Fri, Sep 14): South Asian political economy from the colonial period till the 20th Century**

**Week 3 (Tue, Sep 18 and Fri, Sep 21): Contemporary economy and growth**

**Week 4 (Tue, Sep 25 and Fri, Sep 28): Globalization (+ Quiz 1)**

**Fri, Sep 28: QUIZ #1**
In class video: *Urbanized* (documentary).
Week 5 (Tue, Oct 2 and Fri, Oct 5): Urbanization x Development

Week 6 (Tue, Oct 9 and Fri, Oct 12): The slum as urban form
Fernandes, L. 2004. The politics of forgetting: Class politics, state power and the restructuring of urban space in India. Urban Studies, 41(12), 2415--2430

Week 7 (Tue, Oct 16 and Fri, Oct 19): The land question

Week 8 (Tue, Oct 23 and Fri, Oct 26): In class mid term review (Tue) and blue book midterm exam (Fri)

Tue, Oct 30: No class

Fri, Nov 2: Return of exam and review
**Presentation topics (and 2 line description) due to be submitted**

Week 10 (Tue, Nov 6 and Fri, Nov 9): Democracy and civil society

**Week 11 (Tue, Nov 13 and Fri, Nov 16): Mobilization and claimsmaking**

**Tue, Nov 20 and Tue, Nov 27: Navigating difference in the city: gender, religion, caste (Fri, Nov 23: Thanksgiving recess)**
In class video: *India Untouched* (documentary)

**Fri, Nov 30: QUIZ #2**

**Tue, Dec 4, Fri, Dec 7 and Tue, Dec 10: Final class presentations**

**Dec 17: Final essay due on Sakai**