B.A. in South Asian Languages

A B.A. in South Asian Languages combines advanced language study in Hindi or Sanskrit with courses on the literatures and cultures of South Asia. Students benefit from the exceptional depth of coursework taught by leading scholars in these languages, and they expand their studies with curriculum in South Asian studies from across the humanities and social sciences. Many students pair this major with a major in a professional field (e.g., engineering, business, informatics, computer science), giving them an advantage in these fields as the importance of South Asian business, entertainment, medicine and technology organizations continues to grow. Alumni, as multilingual professionals with in-demand skills, find an advantage entering business and nonprofit work, STEM fields, graduate programs, and more across the globe.

Elementary Sanskrit and Hindi language courses are available only in the fall quarter. Students should sign up for elementary course as early as possible in order to fulfill the major's language requirement. If you have previous experience with Sanskrit or Hindi, see the department's information on proficiency exams and placement interviews.

Admissions, Advising & Student Resources

Please see our Undergraduate Programs section for information about applying to the program, career paths, scholarships, and other student resources.

Degree Requirements

Students may choose a concentration on Hindi or Sanskrit.

This is a 75 credit major.

I. Language

45 credits, includes 30 basic language credits and 15 advanced language credits:

A. Basic Language

30 credits selected from following courses:

For HINDI:

HINDI 201, 202, 203 Intermediate Hindi
HINDI 301, 302, 303 Advanced Hindi

For SANSKRIT:

SNKRT 201, 202, 203 Intermediate Sanskrit
SNKRT 311, 312, 313 Advanced Sanskrit
B. Advanced language, literature, and linguistics

15 credits at 400 level or above, selected from following courses:

For HINDI:

HINDI 404 Derivational Morphology of Hindi/Urdu (5 credits)
HINDI 421 Survey of Modern Hindi Literature (Short Stories; 5 credits)
HINDI 422 Survey of Modern Hindi Literature (Poetry; 5 credits)
HINDI 423 Survey of Modern Hindi Literature (Novels; 5 credits)
HINDI 424 Survey of Modern Hindi/Urdu Literature (Drama; 5 credits, max. 15)
HINDI 431 Advanced Conversational Hindi (3 credits, max. 9)
HINDI 451 Advanced Hindi Readings (5 credits, max. 15)
HINDI 501 Studies in Medieval Braj Literature (5 credits, max. 15)
HINDI 502 Studies in Medieval Avadhi Literature (5 credits, max. 15)
HINDI 503 Studies in Medieval Sant Literature (5 credits, max. 15)
HINDI 504 Studies in Medieval Rajasthani Literature (5 credits)
HINDI 510 Structure of Hindi (3 credits)

For SANSKRIT:

SNKRT 491 Vedic Studies (5 credits)
SNKRT 492 Vedic Studies (5 credits)
SNKRT 494 Studies in Religious Classics of India (3 credits, max. 9)
SNKRT 495 Studies in Indian Thought (5 credits, max. 15)
SNKRT 550 Seminar on Sanskrit Literature (5 credits, max. 15)
SNKRT 555 Seminar on Sanskrit Grammar (5 credits, max. 10)
SNKRT 560 Readings in Philosophical Sanskrit (5 credits, max. 15)
SNKRT 570 Seminar in Indian Epigraphy (5 credits, max. 15)
SNKRT 581 Readings in Indian Buddhist Texts (5 credits, max. 15)
INDN 401 Pali (5 credits)
INDN 402 Pali (5 credits)
INDN 410 Prakrit (5 credits, max. 10)

II. Literature in Translation

10 credits

ASIAN 203 Literature and Culture of Ancient and Classical India (5 credits)
ASIAN 206 Literature and Culture of South Asia from Tradition to Modernity (5 credits)

III. South Asian History

5 credits, one course selected from following:

HSTAS 202 Introduction to South Asian History, 1500-present.
HSTAS 401 History of Ancient India
HSTAS 402 History of Medieval and Mughal India
HSTAS 403 History of Modern India to 1900
IV. South Asian Humanities & Social Sciences

10 credits, selected from following courses:

ANTH 339 Social Movements in Contemporary India
ANTH 341 Political Violence and the Post-Colonial State in South Asia
ANTH 412 South Asian Social Structure
ARCH 251 World Architecture Non-Western Cultures
ART H 214 Art of India: Mohenjo-Daro to the Mughals
ART H 306 Indian Art of South Asia
ART H 312 Art and Empire in India, 1750-1900
ART H 314 Modern and Contemporary Art in India
ART H 414 Topics in South Asian Art
ASIAN 494 Ramayana in Comparative Perspective
ASIAN 498 Special Topics (when South Asian is topic; 1-5 credits, max. 15)
COMP LIT 315 National Cinemas (when South Asian is topic)
GEOG 436 Social and Political Geographies of South Asia
GWSS 339 Social Movements in Contemporary India
HSTAS 201 Introduction to South Asian History, pre-history to 1500
HSTAS 202 Introduction to South Asian History, 1500 - present
HSTAS 401 History of Ancient India
HSTAS 402 History of Medieval and Mughal India
HSTAS 403 History of Modern India to 1900
HSTAS 404 History of Twentieth-Century India
HSTAS 408 Fabulous Gurus and Fake Fakirs: Religious Reform in Colonial India
JSIS A 202 Introduction to South Asian History, 1500 - present
JSIS A 206 Contemporary India and Pakistan
JSIS A 339 Social Movements in Contemporary India
JSIS A 340 Government and Politics of South Asia
JSIS A 341 Political Violence and the Post-Colonial State in South Asia
JSIS A 412 South Asian Social Structure
JSIS A 417 Political Economy of India
JSIS A 438 Social and Political Geographies of South Asia
JSIS A 461 Ramayana in Comparative Perspective
POL S 340 Government and Politics of South Asia
POL S 417 Political Economy of India

Other courses with South Asia content may be substituted with prior approval.

V. Capstone Seminar

5 credits

INDN 490 Special Topics in Indology (1-5 credits, max. 27)
Click here for a list of current quarter classes approved for the major and minor.

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Department of Asian Languages & Literature
University of Washington
225 Gowen Hall
Box 353521
Seattle, WA 98195-3521

Phone: (206) 543-4996
asianll@uw.edu

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