Proposal for a New Minor Program

Proposed Minor (Title):  South Asian Studies
College/School:  CAS
Department:  Asian Studies
CIP Number (6-digit designation obtained from the Registrar’s Office): 05.0112
Anticipated Start Date:  Fall 2012

1. Summary

a. The South Asian minor has been designed to ensure that students take a breadth of courses covering the major topics that define the South Asia area. Students are to take a total of 20 credits in course work, with an additional requirement of a South Asian Experience. Faculty advisors guide minors in preparing a program of study.

   Course work is to be spread across various thematic areas, with students required to satisfactorily complete 16 credits in courses that focus entirely on South Asia. There is one required history course, 12 credits in other courses that focus entirely on South Asia, and 4 credits in a course with either a partial or full focus on South Asia. Four credits are required in each of three thematic areas: Religion and Philosophy; Contemporary South Asian issues; and Media and Culture.

   A final requirement is “Experiencing South Asia” consisting of 12 credits. Students can either take one year (12 credits) of a South Asian language or one term of study (10 weeks) or internship in South Asia. In partial fulfillment of this requirement, students are to write a research paper on or reflective assessment of their South Asian experience.

b. Minors in the Asian Studies Program enable students in various fields (e.g., International Studies, Geography, Business, Science, Computer Science, Journalism, Political Science) to develop knowledge about a region of Asia and to demonstrate that area knowledge through a group of courses about that region. The minor is helpful to students who seek jobs or further study connected to that world area (e.g., work in NGOs or any number of international organizations, businesses, and graduate study related to a specific region.) The South Asia minor will enable students to draw upon existing South Asia curriculum to formally highlight their understanding of this important world area. It will also create an institutionally recognized curricular space for South Asia-related knowledge and intellectual exchange.

   The South Asia minor augments the two regionally-focused minors currently available in the Asian Studies Program. This is desirable given the global dynamism and importance of South Asia and student demand for the minor, and because the creation of this minor corresponds to the heightened quantity of South Asia curricular offerings to support this possibility. The South Asia minor also contributes to the developing internationalization strategy of the Office of International Affairs, one path of which emphasizes UO – India relations. The UO is already an institutional member of the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) and the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS).

2. Description of Proposed Program

a. Briefly describe the design of the proposed minor and other key features:

   i. Describe the design of lower- and upper-division coursework, including specific courses, with titles and numbers. This would include courses that must be taken in sequence, a core set of required courses, course options, and prerequisite requirements.
The South Asian minor has been designed to ensure that students take a breadth of courses covering the major topics that define the South Asia area. Students are to take a total of 20 credits in course work, with an additional requirement of a South Asian Experience. Course work is to be spread across various thematic areas, with students required to satisfactorily complete 16 credits in courses that focus entirely on South Asia. There is one required history course, four credits are required in each of three thematic areas (see recommended courses in Appendix), and an additional 4 credits may be in a course with either a partial or full focus on South Asia.

The requirements are broken down as follows:

- **Required courses**: History of South Asia, to be taught by Arafaat Valiani (beginning 2012-13; as Valiani is a new tenure-track hire in History, his course numbers are not yet available). This is part of a 2-course sequence; the second course in the sequence will be highly recommended, but not required.

- **Thematic area A**: One 4-credit course in Religion and Philosophy

- **Thematic area B**: One 4-credit course in Contemporary South Asian issues

- **Thematic area C**: One 4-credit course in Media and Culture

- The final requirement is for one additional course with either a partial or full focus on South Asia from any of the three thematic areas.

1. *If multiple disciplines are represented in the minor, please note those and include the rationale for their inclusion. What connections do you hope students will make among them?*

The proposed minor is for the already long-established Asian Studies Program at UO. Faculty with Asia specializations from throughout the UO already participate in this interdisciplinary program. Faculty participating in the South Asia minor are from Anthropology, Art History, English, History, International Studies, Journalism & Communications, Linguistics, Music, Religious Studies and other departments.

iii. *Is there coursework outside your discipline that you require or recommend, such as General Education courses or specialized courses in other disciplines?*

Please see the full list of courses by Thematic Area in the Appendix.

iv. *Does the minor require courses or other activities (e.g., practice, service learning projects, or creative projects of some kind) that encourage intellectual synthesis of the practical application of disciplinary concepts?*

The minor has an additional final requirement, “Experiencing South Asia” consisting of 12 credits.

< One year (12 credits) of a South Asian language. Language credits may be earned at the University of Oregon in Hindi/Urdu, through an approved intensive program (e.g., SASLI, the annual South Asia Summer Language
Institute held at the University of Wisconsin), through an approved overseas program, or transferred from another accredited college or university. As an alternative, students may satisfy the language requirement by examination, demonstrating a level of competence equivalent to two years of college-level proficiency in a South Asian language.

**OR**

$ One term of study (10 weeks) or an internship in South Asia. In partial fulfillment of this requirement, students are to write a research paper on or reflective assessment of their South Asian experience.

v. *What metrics will be used to gauge students' mastery of concepts that are fundamental to this minor?*

Successful completion of course work and Experiencing South Asia requirement.

b. **To the extent applicable, how is the proposed minor connected with the institution’s mission, signature strengths, and strategic priorities? In what ways will the minor contribute to the state’s capacity to respond to social, economic, and environmental challenges and opportunities?**

The UO mission expresses a commitment to "international awareness and understanding and to the development of a faculty and a student body that are capable of participating effectively in a global society." The UO Asian Studies Program is already an essential contributor to this dimension of the UO mission. The Asian Studies Program already has minors in East Asia and Southeast Asia, but formerly could not offer a South Asia minor as there were insufficient course offerings. Because of recent South Asia faculty recruitment, there are now more course offerings in the South Asia field than in the Southeast Asia field. It makes sense to create a South Asia minor on this basis. The development of South Asian Studies is part of the UO goal of internationalizing the University, and is also a crucial prong of the international strategy being developed by the Office of International Affairs. It is likely as well to increase the diversity goals of the university.

South Asia comprises an area as significant in size as Europe, represents a fifth of the world’s population, hosts a remarkable diversity of peoples, and is the birthplace of four major world religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism and is home to approximately 440 million Muslims. It is of crucial global economic, social, and environmental and political importance, and Oregonians need to understand this part of the world.

c. **How will the program be delivered? Is it on or off the main campus? Is it delivered in person, by video-conferencing, or online?**

The program will be delivered through already existing courses on the main UO campus, as well as by alternative options to fulfill the South Asia Experience described in 2 a.iv. After two years (Spring 2014), the South Asia Minor faculty members will meet to evaluate how the minor has been working, revisit course requirements to ensure intellectual rigor, disciplinary coverage, balance, chronology, etc., and adjust the requirements accordingly.
d. List the faculty who will teach in this minor, indicating those who will have leadership and/or coordinating roles. For each individual, indicate status with respect to tenure track (TT or NTT), and rank.

Primary faculty with leadership and coordinating roles:

– **Anita Weiss**, TT, Professor and Head of International Studies, Participating Faculty in Asian Studies, PPPM, Religious Studies, and Sociology; Chair of South Asian Studies Committee in UO Center for Asian & Pacific Studies; UO Trustee to the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS)

– **Sangita Gopal**, TT, Associate Professor of English and Cinema Studies; Program faculty in Comparative Literature; Participating faculty in Asian Studies, Ethnic Studies, Women’s Studies. UO Trustee to the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS)

– **Lamia Karim**, TT, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Associate Director of The Center for Study of Women and Society. Participating faculty in Asian Studies, Ethnic Studies, Women’s Studies, and Robert D. Clark Honors College.

Additional faculty who will teach and otherwise participate in this minor:

Sean Anthony, TT, Assistant Professor, History  
Shankha Chakraborty, TT, Associate Professor, Economics  
Rick Colby, TT, Professor, Religious Studies  
Jane Cramer, TT, Associate Professor, Political Science  
Howard Davis, TT, Professor, Architecture  
Ken DeBevoise, NTT, Senior Instructor, Political Science  
Mary-Lyon Dolezal, TT, Associate Professor, Art History  
Jim Earl, TT, Professor Emeritus, English  
Harsha Gangadharbatla, TT, Assistant Professor, SOJC  
David Hollenberg, TT, Assistant Professor, Religious Studies  
Veena Howard, NTT, Lecturer, Asian Studies & Religious Studies  
Mark Levy, TT, Associate Professor, Music  
Ken Liberman, TT, Associate Professor Emeritus, Sociology  
Nadia Loan, NTT, Instructor, International Studies and ? (begins Fall 2012)  
Nagesh Murthy, TT, Professor, LCB  
Isabella Nardi, NTT, Art History  
Eric Pederson, TT, Professor and Department Head, Linguistics  
Biswaup Sen, TT, Assistant Professor, SOJC  
Mark Unno, TT, Professor and Department Head, Religious Studies  
Arafaat Valiani, TT, Assistant Professor, History (begins Fall 2012)
e. How will students in this minor be advised? List the individuals responsible for advising.

Students will be advised by any of the Asian Studies faculty participating in the South Asia Minor. These include, in particular, Anita Weiss, Sangita Gopal, Lamia Karim, and Eric Pederson.

3. Students

a. What kinds of students do you expect this minor to attract? For example, will it appeal to students from particular backgrounds or with specific careers in mind?

The minor will attract students from a wide range of departments and in various fields, including Anthropology, Cinema Studies, Comparative Literature, English, International Studies, Geography, Business, Science, Computer Science, Journalism, and Political Science. Students may be interested in the minor to facilitate their working with NGOs, other or any number of international organizations, businesses, and those who opt to pursue graduate study related to South Asia.

b. Estimate the number of students expected to undertake this minor program in its first year, and the number added each year for the next 5 years.

The number of South Asia minors would likely only be a few in the first year or two, but is likely to grow as the program becomes known and is promoted by South Asia faculty on campus and as UO internationalization develops greater focus on South Asia. A guesstimate would have the number at 3-4 the first year, and growing until it reaches 25 in year five.

4. Resources

a. What resources are needed to support this program? Specifically, identify the resources currently available as parts of existing UO programs or reallocations within existing budgets.

All necessary resources to support the South Asia minor already exist at the UO. Administrative support will be within Asian Studies, which is supported through the OCIAS staff. Faculty involved in the minor come from the departments of Anthropology, Art History, Cinema Studies, Comparative Literature, English, History, International Studies, Music, Linguistics, School of Journalism & Communication, among others.

b. Indicate what, if any, other staff are needed to support this program.

No additional staff resources are needed, as the minor will be offered through the Asian Studies Program.

c. Are specific facilities, equipment, or other resources required for this minor (e.g., unusual library resources, digital media support, laboratories)?

No.
APPENDIX

Suggested courses that focus entirely on South Asia to fulfill thematic areas:

**Religion and Philosophy**
- ASIA 399  Gandhi: India and Beyond
- HC 424  Topics: Mahatma Gandhi
- HC 424  Topics: Mahabharata
- HIST 386  India
- HIST 469  Topics: Indians & Gender
- HIST (more courses by Arafat Valiani to add here)
- REL 304  Religion of India
- REL 305  Hinduism: Myth & Tradition
- REL 399  Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism
- REL 399  Yoga in Theory and Practice

**Contemporary South Asian issues**
- ANTH 331  Cultures of South Asia
- AST 410  Cities of South Asia
- INTL 407  Bollywood’s Lens on Indian Society
- INTL 407  Indian Society through Film
- INTL 407  Pakistan & Afghanistan: Connecting the Problems & the Solutions
- INTL 442  South Asia: Development and Social Change
- J 412  Advertising in India
- PS 399  Sp St Afghanistan/Pakistan
- PS 399  Sp St The War in Afghanistan

**Media and Culture**
- ARH 207  History of Indian Art
- ARH 399  Sp St Indian Painting
- ARH 407  Seminar: the Indian City
- ARH 410  Early Indian Art & Architecture
- ARH 410  Early South Asian Art
- ARH 410  Indian Painting
- ARH 410  Late Indian Art & Architecture
- ARH 410  Later Indian Art
- ASIA 399  Sp St City in India
- ENG 380  Film, Media, History: South Asia
- ENG 246  Topics: South Asia and Globalization
- ENG 381  Film, Media, Culture: South Asia
- ENG 399  Topics: Indian Literature
- LING 199  Sp St Himalayan Languages
- MUS 454  Music of India
Suggested courses with a partial focus on South Asia (to fulfill elective option):

ANTH 407  Seminar: Colonialism & Anthropology
ARH 410  Islamic Architecture
ARH 490  Islamic Art & Architecture
ARH 410  South & SE Asian Art
COLT 360  Gender & Identity in Literature
EC 399  Sp St Asia & Wall Street
EC 490  Economic Growth & Development
ENG 365  Global Literatures in English
ENG 466  Colonial and Postcolonial Literature
ENG 488  Race and Representation in Film
ENG 498  Women’s Literature
HIST 199  Sp St Islamic Civilization I
HIST 199  Sp St Islamic Civilization II
HIST 410  Islamic Origins
HIST 410  Muslims & Other Religions
INTL 399  Islam & Global Forces
INTL 407  Militant Islam
INTL 421  Gender & International Development
INTL 422  Aid to Developing Countries
INTL 423  Development & the Muslim World
J 396   International Communication
J 467   The Digital World
J 460   International Advertising
LING 199  Sp St World Englishes
MUS 358  Music in World Cultures
PHIL 213  Asian Philosophy
REL 101  World Religions: Asian
REL 233  Introduction to Islam
REL 399  Sp St Islamic Political Thought
REL 399  Sp St Muslim Holidays
REL 399  Sp St Otherworldly Journeys
REL 407  Buddhist Philosophy
REL 407  Islamic Law
REL 407  Qur’an & Interpretations
REL 407  Religion & Violence
REL 432  Islamic Mystic Thought
REL 440  Buddhist Scriptures