

HIS/AAS 218
Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern South Asia

Satisfies: GLO, HUM

Thematic Categories: "Arts, Ideas & Culture,"
"Empires, Violence & Global Connections," "Race, Religion, Gender & Sexualities"

M/W: 3:30-4:50pm

Professor Eric Beverley

This course surveys the history of South Asia (contemporary India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, with some consideration of Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, and Sri Lanka) in ancient, medieval, and early modern eras. The course covers key themes and developments in the subcontinent from antiquity to the rise of British colonialism. Central themes include the emergence of social orders, religions, and regions; global and regional mobility and connections; relations between social and religious communities (Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims; peasants, elites, genders); changing state structures; and early European presence. In addition to surveying diverse political, socio-economic and cultural developments across South Asia, the course also raises methodological questions about how different sources provide different perspectives on history. Accordingly, we consider material evidence alongside various narrative primary sources, as well as scholarly writings. The course also highlights the importance of historical memory and the continuing relevance of the pre-modern period in contemporary South Asia.