

Fall 2012

**ANS 372 (Unique#31650)
SOUTH INDIAN CULTURAL HISTORY**

Instructor: Sankaran Radhakrishnan PhD
Email: radha@mail.utexas.edu
Meeting hours and place: 9.30-11 MEZ 1.208 T Th
Office hours: at WCH 5.136

Course content and goals:

This course is an introduction to one of the world's great civilizations, that of south India and India, from its beginnings in the third millennium BC to the present day. The first quarter will deal with classical Indian civilization, its origins, its social structure, religions, arts and sciences. The second quarter and half will examine India's encounters with the civilizations (Ancient, pre-historic, and modern). This course will provide the student with a thorough understanding to South Indian cultures, and their developments and aspects that is major social, political, and economical changes. The course will focus major components of culture in Indian context in general and South India particular. The course will proceed with the introduction to early culture and examine the development of social and political structures and their influences over the society. During the course of study, the class will examine about indigenous cultural groups (races), their cultures, their influence, pre-historic situations; role of geography in south Indian cultures, influence of other cultures on south Indian society; contact between India and south India with East Asia; role of temples, temples as cultural centers and their influence on society; emergence of social divisions and their role in modern contexts, marriage and marriage patterns, rituals: believes and faiths etc. The development of art forms as art was seen as a precious human expression, capturing the truth of beauty in the natural world and the Renaissance was seen as its most fulfilled, rational and technically perfect manifestation.

A clear picture about the early, medieval, and modern cultures will be presented to understand the region, south India and its cultures through lectures, discussions, multimedia materials etc. Student's active class participation also form part of the course.

Grading/ Course Requirements:

Grading will be done based on quizzes (2), attendance, class participation, a long Paper/project and presentation, critical write-ups on specific themes. There will be number of interesting visuals (videos, slides, transparencies, pictures etc) on different aspects of the cultures for this class to make the students to feel the culture of the region and for more cultural understanding. Students are expected to observe carefully the videos and take notes to write Write-ups and prepare for quizzes.

Class Attendance and participation:

Attendance in every class is requirement. Class participation and discussion is expected in the class. Absences will reflect and lead to reduction in the final grade.

Grading: Score points distribution

Quiz (Q-1: 15+Q-2: 10)	25%
Library reference	05%
Attendance and class participation	20%
Paper(s)/Project and presentation	40%
Short critical write-up (Videos/topic)	10%

- Students will have opportunity to read and respond to others project (1)/papers (2) and revise the project and papers many times based on instructor's feedback.
 - Students will have opportunity to see other's work and offer constructive criticism for their understanding of the subject.
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Books recommended:

1. M.L. Bose, *Social and Cultural History of Ancient India*
2. Nilakanta Sastri, *History of South India*
3. Thapar, *History of India Vol. I*
4. Course-pack, *South Indian cultural history* (collection of articles from various authors and books)

Use Radhakrishnan's Bb materials

5. Michael Thompson, Richard Ellis, and Aaron Wildavsky, Oxford, *Cultural Theory*, 1990
6. David Ludden, *India and South Asia*, Oxford, 2007
7. Charles H. Kennedy et al, *Government and politics in South Asia*, Westview Press, 2009
8. Robert L. Hardgrave, Jr., *Government and politics in developing nations*, 1993
9. Course-pack