ANS 372-W Cultural history of South India Spring 2010

Happy New Year and Welcome to the ANS Class

Instructor: Sankaran Radhakrishnan Ph.D.
Meeting time: T Th 9.30-11 at MEZ 1.102
Office hours: Tuesdays: 2-3 at WCH 5.136 (or by appointment)

Course content and goals:
This course is a Writing component course. This class is about 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 and require students to write regularly several times during the semester.

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 of 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, 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 and critical comments form part of the course. About 50% of the final grade reflects on writing 15-20% for attendance and active class-participation/discussion 30% quizzes

Readings:Books and collection of articles

Cultural theory authored by Michael Thompson, Richard Ellis, Aaron Wildavsky

Aryan and British India authored by Thomas R. Trautmann

India and South Asia authored by David Ludden

India: Government and Politics in a developing nation, authored by Robert L. Hardgrave, Jr and Standley Kochanek

Social and cultural history of ancient India, authored by M.L.Bose

History of India, authored by Romila Thapar

A history of South India, authored by Nilakanta Sastri

And **collection of about 12 course themes** related articles by various authors.

Essays of analysis, criticism, or argument, and presentation
Reviews of books, selected articles on the themes, lectures, and videos related to the topics,
Critical write-ups

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: 15) ……	30%
Attendance and class participation ……	20%
Project/Paper(s) and presentation ……	40%
Critical writing (topic) ……..	10%

- Students will have opportunity to read and respond to others project /papers and revise the project/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 in the presentation.

NO final exam.

Class activities: We meet 29 times for this class.

Classes	**Lecture and discussion topics**
1-9	Introductions to India: Culture, components of cultures The two Great civilizations: Aryan and Indus Valley: land and development of cultures Dravidians and Aryans Political culture and cultural influence and synthesis: Emergence of India Moguls Moguls to Indian Independence British colonial period Indian Independence Gandhi -Father of Nation, Non-violence Presence of Dutch and Portuguese After Indian Independence (After British regime) Modern India as Nation

Discussion will be on:
Two Great Civilizations of Indian subcontinent
Who are the Dravidians? ……
Aryans? ……
The Dawn of History: Aryanization …….
The Impact of Aryan Culture ……...
Indian Philosophy: A Historical Overview

Medieval stage in India/South Asia:

The Mughal Empire: State, Economy, and Society
The Globalization of the Development Challenge
Creating Nations
Political Culture and Heritage
South India
Geographical Factors in South Indian culture
Pre-history of South India
Indian Civilization: from Pre-history to the 18th century
Racial background of South India
The Early Peoples and Cultures
The Racial Theory of Indian Civilization
Ethnic composition and foreign elements in Indian history
Africans in early Asian civilizations
South Indian society and social institutions:
Society in the early and medieval periods
Marriage, Sex-Relations and Status of Woman
Role of Temple:
Temples as cultural centers (developments Arts, architecture…)
Temple Festivals of South India
Contact and Adjustment:
South India and China: Early contacts
Contacts between India and Southeast Asia

15% Quiz 1: 04 March
Quiz-1: 1-9 classes contents

15% Quiz 2: 15 April
Quiz-2: 10-20 classes contents

Project and papers
10% Paper on "History of India" Due: 09 March

40% Paper and Project
Assigned topic Critical writing: 10%: Assigned topic (Paper based on an Article)-will be assigned later, in a week through email.

Topics on cultures-creative writing: Paper and presentation
Draft #1 due: 16 Feb
Draft#2 due: 23 March
Final paper (draft#3): 25 April
Presentation: 04 May

Good Luck!!!