India China Interactions

Yunnan University

This course is designed for students interested in Sino-Indian relations. We will cover the historical and contemporary exchanges between India and China on their systems of politics, economy, society as well as bilateral relations both them. The course will highlight similarities and differences between the two societies, their mutual perceptions, cultural exchanges and influences, patterns of development, causes of conflict as well as possibilities for cooperation, and their role in world history and the contemporary global economy.

Beginning in Fall 2009, the course will be taught simultaneously at the School of International Relations, Yunnan University. Lead faculty from Yunnan university, The New School in New York, U.S and the University of Calcutta in Kolkata, India collaborated for more than a year to develop this cross-disciplinary syllabus that will be used for the course at each location. The using language of the course would be both Chinese and English, The main planning content of the course will be given by Chinese teachers working in YU in class, the scholars from New School, University of Calcutta as well as China are going to invite to give lectures to students during semester. The team of faculty is developing a web-based resource library and interactive space that will give students the opportunity to regularly interact with other students taking this course at their own, and teachers who is in charge of the course will also give more suggestions about reading documents while course start. In addition to reading primary and second materials, students will also study films and other kinds of documentaries.

Relations between China and India course is the foundation of a two-part learning format designed to give students a unique opportunity to develop their research interests through scholarship and practical experience. Students who have taken the course will be eligible to apply for an eight-week practicum in the summer of 2010 in Kunming, China and Kolkata, India. Six students from each university will be selected to participate. The summer practicum will consist of collaborative internships and research assignments in coordination with universities, NGOs, arts and cultural organizations and international bodies working on a broad range of issues including local governance and infrastructure, human rights, economic development and cultural entrepreneurship, conflict resolution, environment, and so on. Each student participating in the summer practicum will be connected with one student from each of the other universities to work on a team project based on mutual interests. Students will be provided with additional information on the practicum and the application process toward the end of the semester.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand Sino-Indian interactions more comprehensively and concretely;
2. To close our gaps in knowledge through direct interactions and investigations;
3. To improve teaching of and learning about India and China; and,
4. To support a group of young scholars interested in expanding existing scholarship on India China interactions.

Requirements for students:

1. **Class Participation (10%).** Students are encouraged to participate in this class. This means asking questions, commenting on readings or other people’s comments or challenging/debating the instructor.

2. **One 15-minute, in-class summary of a reading (10%).** Each student will join with a minimum of another student to report on the week’s readings in class for about 20 minutes. The team will hand out written summaries to the class as well. When summarizing the readings, the students must answer the following questions:
   
   a. What is the problem that the author is addressing in the article/book?
   b. What does the author say about this problem?
   c. What evidence does the author present to support his/her argument?
   d. Is the author persuasive? (Do you agree or disagree with the author?)

3. **Two Response Papers (20% each, 40%).** These response papers should be no more than 2 pages each. They should express the student’s thoughts on a particular reading. The response paper is due the day of the reading assigned in class.

4. **One Term Paper (50%).** This term paper should be no more than 15 pages. Students will select a particular topic on India-China relations that they’d like to explore in greater depth. Original research is encouraged. The student is also encouraged to confer with the instructor on the topic.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Most of readings can be obtained from

[http://indiachinainteractions.org](http://indiachinainteractions.org) or [http://ici.parsons.edu](http://ici.parsons.edu)

**Week 1: Background: South Asia**


- “Introduction: India, China and the New World Order” (pp. 1-7).
- “Chapter Four: China Roars, the World Listens” (pp. 94-130).
- “Chapter Five: India’s Networked Economy” (pp. 131-169).
- “Chapter Six: China versus India” (pp. 170-207).

Waheguru Pal Singh SIDHU and JING Dong Yuan, China and India: Cooperation or Conflict? (Lynne Rienner Publications, 2003).

- Chapter One: “Imprisoned by History” (pp.9-44)
- Chapter Two: “Locked in an In(security) Complex” (pp. 45-78)
- Chapter Three: “A Complex Ménage à Trois: China, India, and the United States)” (79-111)
- Chapter Five: “Decisionmaking in a Time of Popular Indifference” (pp.141-167)

ZHENG Ruixian (ed), Yindu de jueqi yu zhong-yin guanxi (China’s Rise and Sino-Indian Relations) (Beijing: Dangdai shijie chubanshe, 2006).

- Chapter Fourteen: “India’s Rise and Sino-Indian Relations”

Recommended:


LIN Chengjie, Yindu shi (History of India) (People’s Press, 2004).

I. ANCIENT LINKAGES

Week 3: Commerce, Trade, Religion, People, and Ideas


- Chapter One: “Trade Routes and Centres from the First to the Early Sixth Centuries,” pp. 25-52.
- Chapter Two: “Trading Items,” pp. 53-75.


Ji Xianlin, “Da zhanbian : ming muo chu qing” (The Major Transformation : End of the Ming Dynasty and Beginning of the Qing Dynasty) Ji Xianlin lun Zhong-Yin Wenhua Jiaoliu (Ji Xianlin on Sino-Indian Cultural Exchanges), pp. 121-122. (Beijing: Xin shijie chubanshe, 2006.)

Recommended:


Eusebius RANAUDOT, Ancient Accounts of India & China by Two Mohammedan Travellers: Who Went to Those Parts in the 9th Century (Translated by Eusebius Ranaudot). (Asian Educational Services, 1995).


**II. COLONIALISM AND ITS AFTERMATH**

**Week 4: Colonialism and Modernity**


• Chapter Two: “A Stream of Wealth: Opium, India and China,” pp. 31-56
• Chapter Four: “Ships of the Opium Trade,” pp. 75-98.


Recommended:


In Hindi: *Thirteen Months in China*

Film: “Awara” (1950s)

**III. CREATING THE POSTCOLONIAL STATE**
Week 5: Nation-Building


- Introduction: “Continuities and Discontinuities between Pre- and Post-Independence India” (pp.1-27).
- Part 1: “Political Change” (pp.31-126)
- Part 2: “Pluralism and National Integration” (pp.129-241).


- Chapter One: “Linear History and the Nation-State”
- Chapter Two: “Bifurcating Linear Histories in China and India”

Recommended:


- “Gandhi and Mao,” pp. 41-46.


Film: “Kotnis” [Two versions: Chinese and Indian]

[NO CLASS ON 29 SEPTEMBER; FOLLOW MONDAY SCHEDULE]

Week 6: Diaspora Communities


Recommended:


Kwai-Yun LI, Palm Leaf Fan and Other Stories (2007).

Film: “The Legend of Fat Mama” (2006, 23 minutes documentary, available on the ICI website)

IV. CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

Week 7: Overall View

CHEN Jidong. “India’s Relations with Regional Cooperative Organizations” (Chapter 10), Dangdai yindu dui wai guanxi yanjiu (Contemporary India’s Studies of External Relations). Bashu shudian, 2005.


- Chapter Three: “Comparing Transition Economies”: M. AGARWAL and D. SENGUPTA, pp. 88-117
- Chapter 14: “Verbalities and Realities of Foreign Policy”: G.P. DESHPANDE, pp. 381-396.


Recommended:


Week 8: Borders and National Security

- Chapter Four: “Untying the Knot’ and Getting Back on Track”
- Chapter Five: “Transcending the Territorial Imperative and Advancing Beyond the Bilateral”


**Week 9: Borders and National Security, Cont’d**


- Chapter Three: “Sino-India Relations: the Protracted Contest”
- Chapter Thirteen: “Prospects for a Qualitative Change in PRC-ROI Relations”


- Chapter Thirteen: “India, China and the United States”: Kaushi SEN, pp. 251-274.


- Chapter Three: “Distortions in the History of Sino-Indian Frontiers,” pp. 75-89

**Week 10: Economic Exchanges and Cooperation**


**Week 11: Contemporary Cultural Relations (1): The Literary Tradition**


TAGORE, *Talks in China*.

- “At a Buddhist Temple, Peking,” pp. 121-125.
- “Rabindranath’s Answers to Questions by the Students of Tsing Hua College,” pp. 132-135.


**Week 12: Media and Communication**


Recommended:


- Chapter Two: “The Distinctiveness of Indian Popular Cinema,” pp. 25-35.


V. US-INDIA-CHINA

Week 13: US on India/China


- Chapter Two: “Perception and China Policy in India”: Steven A. HOFFMAN, pp. 33-74.
- Chapter Eight: “Convergent Chinese and Indian Perspectives on the Global Order”: James CLAD, pp. 267-293.

Recommended:


Week 14: India on China and China on India


**Week 15: The Future**


TAN Chung (ed), Zhongying datong lixiang yu shixian (*The Ideal and Practice of Chindia*) (Ningxia renmin chubanshe, 2007):

- SUN Peijun, “India and China Cooperate to Create Collectively a New Asian Century,” pp. 365-372;