This course is designed as an introduction to the peoples and cultures of the countries that make up modern South Asia - India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka - and the contemporary problems that mark South Asia in a global context. The purpose of this course is to dislocate/complicate essentialized representations of South Asia as a timeless "object" of study, and move toward an analytics of how South Asian cultures and identities are produced and shaped by complex structures of colonialism, nationalism and globalization. The course focuses on a variety of issues that inform modern South Asia such as caste, class, nation-making, ethnic violence, family life, gender, sexuality, diaspora, outsourcing, and globalization.