Description: This course is meant as a wide-ranging survey of the subcontinent that is currently the home of one-fifth of the world’s population. It imparts a basic minimum of information about 5000 years of the region’s history in terms of a broad outline of state-forms, collective identities and changing religious doctrines and artistic endeavors. Students will be exposed to old terms such as Kamasutra and understand the trading and urban world of early India. They will learn about caste-formation in the same context; as well as the opponents of such forms such as the Buddhist, Jaina, Sikh, Islamic groups that were established in the same terrain. Students will come to appreciate quickly the early pluralism of this region, the patterns of conflict and compromise that resulted from such collocation. The course will then transition to understanding the ways in which European colonialism worked, as well as the creation of nation-states such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim in the twentieth century. Taking this course qualifies students for a South Asian Studies Minor certificate.