



## **South Asia Studies Learning Goals**

South Asia Studies concentrators will have a foundation in understanding the dynamics of this crucial region and offers students the opportunity to concentrate on a part of the world whose importance in international affairs is increasingly recognized by the policy and corporate community. The curriculum provides an insight into the central dilemmas of modern politics, economic development and social change present in the region. Interdisciplinary courses address South Asia's growing economic and strategic importance as well as its political history, its complex social structures and the challenges of development.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Students will have the ability to apply basic concepts of economic development, social movements, democratic politics and political economy to South Asia. South Asia is a laboratory for anyone interested in economic and political development;
2. Understand contemporary history that shaped the South Asia region, with a special focus on the role of colonialism, and the effects of partition;
3. Familiarize themselves with the various ongoing conflicts in the region, including those in Afghanistan, Kashmir and the India-China border;
4. Understand the ethno-religious makeup of the region, and recognize when ethno-religious cleavages can become politically salient;
5. Realize the unique geo-strategic issues of the region;
6. Comprehend the political economy of the various sub-regions of South Asia;
7. Understand the South Asia region in the context of its relationship with great powers, emerging powers, and India's role as a BRIC and for the region as a whole;
8. Know the role of international and regional bodies operating in the subcontinent, including the World Bank, United Nations, Asian Development Bank and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC);
9. Develop familiarity with the major current events in the region and have the ability to speak extemporaneously on these themes;
10. Express their views using cogent arguments in the form of policy memos, briefings, oral presentations, or reports and papers of publishable quality; and
11. Reach proficiency in a South Asian language.