Department of Sociology
Introduction to South Asia
B-7: The Sociology of Everyday Life

Duration: Fridays, 11 am – 1 pm; 24 April – 04 May 2017
Credits: 1
Course Instructors: Dr Ravi Kumar; Prof Sasanka Perera

Note: The course is limited to a maximum of 25 students on a first-come-first-served basis. The course will not be offered if a minimum of ten students have not opted for it.

Objective:
The course is aimed at generating a general interest among students towards the culture and society that characterises South Asia. Methodologically, this process is conceived of as consisting of subject matter that would generate interest among students. In order to achieve this, the course relies on themes that students encounter in their everyday lives such as food, religion, theatre, cinema, etc. The course will consist of the following basic structure and will evolve over the semester while some readings from the select bibliography below will be used in the discussions.

Structure

1. Everyday social relations: Love, hatred and violence
   This section introduces students to contemporary developments in the countries of South Asia. Through the contemporary, it makes an entry into the past, and explores the possibilities of the future.

2. Religious regimes in South Asia: Transcending the competing appearances
   This section touches upon one of the most contested domains in the countries of this region. While violence is fostered through the intersectionality of religion and polity, the region also has a rich history of religious movements which promote tolerance and which have connected with the masses cutting across differences.

3. Areas where territorial boundaries may not exist: Food, cinema, poetry and craft
In their everyday lives, people inhabiting the region consume food, cinema and other mediums of art and literature. This section will focus on how a kind of South Asian sensibility might be created or might already exist on the basis of culinary and artistic traits in the region.

Mode of Evaluation

This component of the course is worth 50 marks. Evaluation will be based on 2 essays worth 25 marks each.

Select Bibliography

Selections from the following texts will be used in the course in addition to films, slides and music:


