COURSE NO. 142

COURSE TITLE History of South Asia to the Present

INSTRUCTOR Mr. Richards

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a comprehensive survey of the basic development of South Asian history from pre-history to the present. The assumption is that students taking the course will need to learn the most basic facts about the history of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The course is divided roughly into the ancient, the medieval and the modern periods. In the first section the lectures will deal with the appearance of civilization in the Gangetic and Indus valleys, the Aryan invasions and the emergence of the great Indian empires. A discussion of the rise and spread of Buddhism and Hinduism will also be included for this early period. In the medieval section, the emphasis will be on the cultural encounter and sustained contact between Islamic and Hindu/Buddhist civilization. The last segment, for the 18th through the 20th centuries, will discuss British India and the more recent history of the independent Republic of India as well as that of Pakistan.

LECTURES

There will be three lectures and one discussion weekly.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMS

A six-week, a twelve-week, and a final examination will be required.

GRADING SYSTEM

Six-week exam: 25%; Twelve-week exam: 25%; Final exam: 50%

REQUIRED READINGS

Approximately 50 - 100 pages per week of readings from the books required for the course or from other texts on reserve in Helen C. White.