

**AAS 211.31
Global Environment & South Asia**

[Can cross-list for History Majors/Minors at SBU]

Summer 2024: Session 1

Satisfies SBC: SBS

Instructor: Donal Thomas

Online Asynchronous

The course explores through an historical perspective how the natural world of South Asia influences the global environment and vice versa. South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, and others) includes two of the world's eight 'hottest hotspots' of biological diversity abounding in fauna such as elephants, tigers, rhinos, lions, deer, pearl oysters, along with floral wealth including teak, sandalwood, saffron, black pepper, rhododendrons, and others. This course examines the long history of interactions between human and non-human resulting from rapid economic growth, urbanization, industrialization, and globalization are endangering the environment and ecology. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources, including articles, films, documentaries, videos, and podcasts, on how environmental changes, such as the melting of Himalayan glaciers, influence global political, cultural, and social movements. These include movements for environmentalism, climate justice, sustainable development, and others. There will be a short response paper, map quiz, discussion board, and choice of a final paper or recorded podcast/video for the course. No required textbook; all course materials will be on Brightspace.