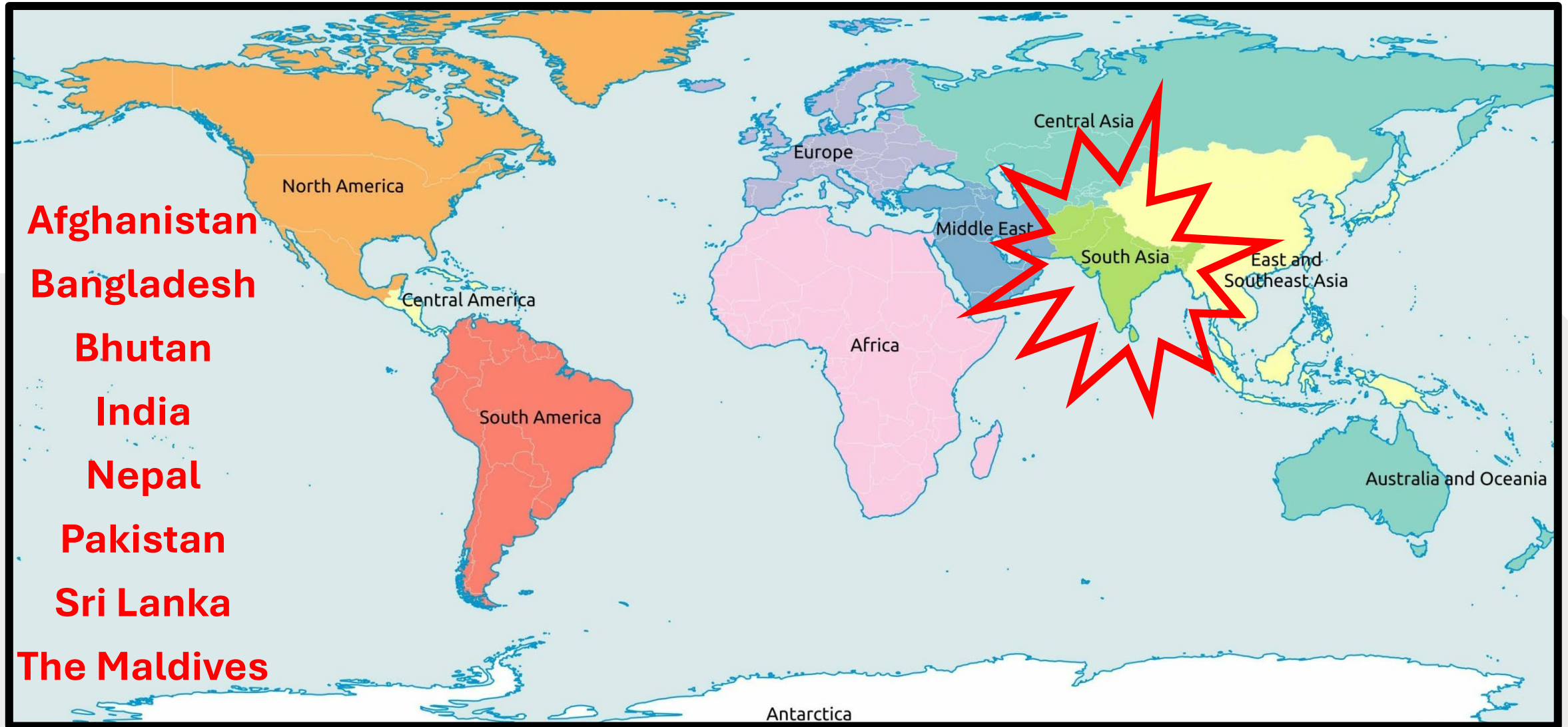




South Asia!

South Asia: The Future of the World Starts Here

Why South Asia?

- **Demographic explosion:** With nearly 2 billion people and India as the most populous country on the planet, South Asia isn't just growing—it's shaping the future. Want to understand the world's next big moves? *Start here.*
- **Economic muscle:** From tech giants in Bangalore to booming textile industries in Bangladesh, South Asia's economic growth seems unstoppable. *Seize opportunities where they are being created.*
- **Geopolitical dynamo:** At the heart of global power struggles, South Asia's role in nuclear diplomacy, its key position in the Indian Ocean, and the region's growing influence in world politics make it a hot zone for international relations. *Are you ready for the frontlines of global change?*

South Asia: The Cradle of Civilizations and Ideas

- **Spiritual Home to World Religions:** Major religions like Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism were born here. South Asia also serves as a nurturing ground for rich traditions of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism. *Seek your truth here.*
- **Ancient wisdom, modern relevance:** South Asia gave the world zero, invented chess, and composed the Mahabharata—one of the longest and most complex literary works. Want to dive into a region that's influenced everything from yoga to AI? *You're in the right place.*
- **Global trailblazer:** Whether it's pioneering art, stunning architecture, or technological advances, South Asia has been the cultural and intellectual engine driving innovation for millennia. Ever wondered where much of your everyday math, music, or dance originated? *Look no further.*

Contemporary South Asia: A Battleground of Extremes

- **Cultural melting pot or ticking time bomb?** South Asia's incredible religious and cultural diversity is now facing intense pressure with rising communalism. It's a region of both unity and deep divides. *How do you navigate such a complex landscape?*
- **World's largest democracy... with cracks:** Yes, South Asia is home to the world's largest democracy, but it's also a place of flawed democracies, political intrigue, and upheaval. *Think democracy is simple? Look here and think again.*
- **Boom or bust?** South Asia's economies are growing fast, but with that comes growing disparities—rich billionaires live alongside some of the world's poorest. *Explore the extremes.*
- **Climate catastrophe impending:** South Asia is ground zero for climate change impacts. The Maldives, an island paradise, risks disappearing under rising seas, and Bangladesh—one of the most densely populated countries in the world—faces regular floods and displacements. *Where do we go from here?*

South Asia: A Cultural Supernova

- **Art, film, music, dance, and food at their zenith:** South Asia is a sensory overload. From the global influence of Bollywood to the intricate beauty of traditional dances like Bharatanatyam, this region shapes culture far beyond its borders. *Feel the rhythm? Join the movement.*
- **Cuisines that will change your palate forever:** The world's obsession with biryani, curry, dosa, and naan is only the beginning. Each region offers dishes as distinct as its people—an endless variety of bold, unforgettable tastes. *Ready to take a bite?*
- **The soundtrack of global music:** From infectious bhangra beats to intricate melodies of classical music, South Asian music is an unmatched blend of the ancient and futuristic. *Tune in and get swept away.*

Why You Should Minor in South Asia: Expand Your World

- **Five courses.** *Infinite horizons.*
 1. Two courses on South Asia's cultural heritage (from different departments).
 2. Two courses on themes, topics, and perspectives focusing on South Asia (from different departments).
 3. One course on the connections or discontinuities between South Asia and the rest of the world.
- No foreign language requirement (*South Asia embraces English as its own!*), though courses on other South Asian languages (Bangla, Hindi, Urdu, etc.) can count towards the minor.

Spring 2027 courses

- **ART-104:** Asian Art After 1000 – Dr. Zhang
- **ART-150:** Female Sultans – Dr. Halsted
- **ART-248:** From Agra to Istanbul – Dr. Halsted
- **COM-208:** Environmental Communication – Dr. Pariyadath
- **DAN-150:** Slow Movement – Dr. Nambiar
- **MUS-221:** Studies of Composers and Style – Dr. Vanderbeek
- **MUS-245:** Religious Music of South Asia – Dr. Vanderbeek
- **PHI-250:** Buddhism as Philosophy – Dr. Robb
- **REL-268:** Hindu Gods and Goddesses – Dr. Patel
- **REL-278:** Empires, Rulers, and Cities – Dr. Zamir
- **REL-282:** Tibetan Religions – Dr. Pang
- **SOC-242:** Globalization and Social Change – Dr. Bhandari
- **SOU-101:** Intro to South Asian Studies – Dr. Gouri Suresh
- *Independent studies and self-instructional language programs – just ask!*

SOU 101 – Introduction to South Asian Studies



- Experience South Asia through an **interdisciplinary sampler** of ideas, histories, and cultures.
- Enjoy a “**thali-style**” course — an assortment of **deep, flavorful dives** into fascinating topics led by different professors.
- Explore South Asia’s **historical, social, cultural, religious, and economic** worlds from multiple perspectives.
- Discover how South Asia’s **traditions and communities** have shaped — and been shaped by — the wider world.
- A vibrant introduction for anyone curious about one of the world’s most **diverse and dynamic** regions.