SPRING 2011

Language and Culture in India

Place: G32, FLB (Foreign Languages Building)
Time: Tu-Th
2-3:20 PM

Instructor: Professor Rajeshwari V. Pandharipande
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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-3 PM (or by appointment)

Credit: 3 Hours.

Course Description:

The course aims at examining the dynamic relationship between language and culture in the multilingual and multicultural India. The course is designed to introduce students to the structure and function of Indian languages in diverse contexts of Indian culture. Special topics of focus are: linguistic and cultural diversity in India, language and social identity, language of religion, language and gender, language in the media (including Bollywood Cinema, print media, and television), language in the business (including advertisements), language in the literature. The discussion will also focus on the factors which influence the maintenance and change in the relationship between language and culture (e.g., language and power, cultural/language contact, bi/multilingualism, and globalization), and their impact on languages (diglossia, code-mixing, pidgins, and creoles). The course will be of special importance for students (majors and/or non-majors) in various disciplines who want to understand Indian culture and languages, their interaction, mutual influence, and their role in the formation and change of Indian identity in the global context.

THIS COURSE FULFILLS GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT OF NON-WESTERN CULTURES.

This is one of the REQUIRED courses for Hindi Minor.