

GSGS 4610 Topics in Global Research

This is a three unit intensive course that trains students in research on different genres. In each unit the student is introduced to different genres and for each genre the student is expected to respond to the genre by writing entries on the genres (with a final paper). In the process the student builds a large critical base that will serve them if they wish to continue conducting research in India. The course is tailored to further research in India, so is a more in depth look at very particular research methods. It is more explicitly focused than the interdisciplinary methods course and the student is expected to find their own secondary materials for this course of directed study.

Unit one:

Newspaper and magazine archives. These include contemporary and historical materials and the student will be trained in basic archival research methods (and must visit archives). The particular materials will address specific concerns which encompass subjects such as gender, politics, violence, finance etc.

Unit two:

Pamphlets and materials produced by organizations for locally based initiatives. These materials are specific to organizations whose primary work is conducted in and around New Delhi. The student is trained into analyze the policy initiatives that organizations implement and is also trained in working with local groups as well as working with local forms of governance. Such materials will look at organizational history, environmental issues and projects based on the environment as well as projects based on health. This will be wider in range than the work done for the internship—so that the student can put their internship learning in a wider political and social context.

Unit three:

Magazines and articles that address literary, musical and cinematic discourses. These readings will also be tied into the previous two units. Students will build an analytic base that addresses the ways in which cinematic and literary engagements address the issues raised in units one and two. The student will gain a familiarity with the language of literature and cinema as well as the language of critique used by writers on cinema and literature for representations of political/social/environmental projects. In South Asia local engagements often shape as aesthetic genres, or are spoken about through the aesthetic, this unit will give students a chance to study documentary and high art cinema rather than Bollywood along lines that tie in with research. It will train students in using other genres to conduct research.