The goal of this course is to introduce students to the vibrant religious traditions of South Asia. The course will examine Hindu, Buddhist, Islamic, and Jain traditions as well as the ancient and modern contexts in which they are situated. In order to guide our inquiries, we will focus on four major historical periods when the structure and function of daily life in South Asia changed radically (the emergence of asceticism, the definition and defense of tradition, communal interrelations, and confrontations with modernity). Each of these innovations contributed significantly to what are now recognized as the religions of South Asia. The class will include extensive use of visual resources in addition to traditional texts. All materials will be provided online. There are no required books to purchase.