This FIG will introduce students to broad theoretical thinking about gender and culture and provide them the opportunity to learn one of the world’s main, yet in the United States less commonly taught, languages. The main course of the cluster (LCA 300) is a topics course surveying ideas about gender and sexuality in South Asia as well as the South Asian diaspora. Students will explore a variety of topics, including arranged versus love marriage, the “myth” of homosexuality in South Asian culture, the “third gender” (hijras), sex-selection abortion, surrogacy, and sexual diversity in film and literature.

In line with its mission of showing students how to go nowhere near a box when it comes to cultivating critical thinking, the course is partly self-assessed and has no final exam. There is a high expectation of active participation in group discussion (though accommodations will be made where necessary), both online and in the classroom, and every class requires a written response to the readings for that day. There is also a bi-weekly journaling exercise, and one final essay which will be graded by the instructor. Classes include movies, guest lectures, student presentations, and occasionally food!

**Linking Courses:**

Anthropology 104: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. This course provides a comparative cross-cultural consideration of social organization, economics, politics, language, religion, ecology, gender, and cultural change.

LCA 353: First Semester Hindi. Students will study this South Asian language course to further their understanding of some of the cultures of this region.
This FIG is a total of 10 credits. Students will need to take a 12 credit minimum to be a full-time student.