

University of Rochester – IR 202
Fall 2011
Tuesdays/Thursdays – 9:40-10:55
Hylan 102

India, Pakistan, and the Politics of South Asia

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Course description: South Asia, an area approximately covering the countries of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal, is home to nearly a fifth of the world's population. This course is an introduction to the rich social science literature on government and politics in the region. The central questions we will address are: Why has India been relatively stable and democratic since independence while governments in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka have struggled to maintain political stability or democracy though they have similar historical legacies? What domestic and international factors lie behind the recent emergence of terrorist violence in Pakistan? What are the implications of India and Pakistan being nuclear powers for regional and international security? Why have democracy and economic reforms in India failed to diminish income inequality? Will Nepal's unique revolutionary transition to democracy create a more stable and egalitarian society?

Textbooks:

Paul Brass, ed. *Routledge Handbook of South Asian Politics*, Routledge, 2010.

Please note: The *Routledge Handbook of South Asian Politics* (henceforth *Handbook*) edited by Paul Brass is available as an e-book through Voyager. You are not required to purchase it for class. All other assigned readings will either be in reserves at the library or made available through blackboard. I keep the right to make modifications to the syllabus depending on the progress of the class. You will be notified of any such changes well in advance.

Requirements: You are expected to attend lectures every Tuesday and Thursday and keep up with the readings. Lectures will be interspersed with discussions so active and informed class participation is expected. If for some reason you miss a class, please contact me BEFORE the class. More than 2 unexcused absences might affect your class participation grade by half a letter grade. More than 5 accumulated absences will result in 0% for the class participation portion of your overall grade.

Participation in this class does not end in the classroom. At different points of time in the semester, I will be setting up discussion threads in Blackboard. Participation in these discussions will be mandatory. A post could be a question about the particular discussion thread or your reflections on the thread or your response to another post or anything else that is related to the thread. Any post is acceptable as long as it shows that you are earnestly engaging with the subject of the thread, and equally importantly, that you are willing to give due consideration to viewpoints that are different from your own.

The assignments for the course will include two mid-semester examinations and one end-term examination. You also have the option of writing an original essay of 8-10 pages applying the concepts learned in the course. If you do choose to write the essay, you must submit a draft proposal of 2-3 pages before the Thanksgiving break. The essay will be due the last day of class. **LATE ESSAYS WILL BE GIVEN A LOWER GRADE: *one-third letter grade per day late***. Example: An “A” paper two days late will drop to a “B+”.

Academic Honesty: A plagiarized paper will not receive any points. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course and sanctions determined by the University’s Academic Honesty board.

Grading:

Class Participation - 10%

Discussion Board – 10 %

First Mid-Semester Exam – 20%

Second Mid-Semester Exam – 20%

End-Semester Exam – 40%

For students who take the essay option, the final grade will be calculated as follows:

Class Participation 10%, Discussion Board 10 %, First Mid-Semester Exam 15%, Second Mid-Semester Exam 15%, Essay 15 %, End-Semester Exam 35%.

Classroom Etiquette: You deserve a Professor who does not read his newspaper, listen to his I-pod, answer his cell-phone, use his laptop to access Facebook or otherwise demonstrate a lack of respect for you during class discussion and lectures. Your Professor deserves students who demonstrate the same level of respect.

Course Calendar

September 1: Introduction

September 6: Background Facts

Read:

Atul Kohli and Amrita Basu, "India," *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger, and William A. Joseph ed., 2009.

Colonialism, Nationalism, and Independence

September 8:

Read:

Yasmin Khan, *The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan*, 2007, Ch. 1 & Ch. 5.

September 13:

Read:

Omar Noman, *Pakistan: A Political and Economic History since 1947*, 1990, Ch. 1.
Nira Wickramasinghe, "Sri Lanka's Independence: Shadows over a colonial graft," *Handbook*.

Party System

September 15:

Read:

Robert L. Hardgrave and Stanley A. Kochanek, *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation*, 1999, Ch. 6.

September 20:

Read:

Javed Burki, "Pakistan's Politics and its Economy," *Handbook*.
Harry Blair, "Party Overinstitutionalization, Contestation, and Democratic Degradation in Bangladesh," *Handbook*.

Governance

September 22:

Read:

Kanchan Chandra, *Why Ethnic Parties Succeed*, 2007, Ch.6.

September 27:

Read:

Neil DeVotta, "Politics and Governance in Post-Independence Sri Lanka," *Handbook*.
Krishna Hachhethu and David N. Gellner, "Nepal: Trajectories of Democracy and Restructuring of the State," *Handbook*.

Federalism

September 29:

Read:

Aseema Sinha, "The Changing Political Economy of Federalism in India: A Historical Institutional Approach," *India Review*, 3(1), 2004, 25-63.

Judiciary

October 4:

Read:

Pratap Bhanu Mehta, "The Rise of Juridical Sovereignty," *Journal of Democracy*, 18 (2), 2007, 70-83.

Reforming the Judiciary in Pakistan, Asia Report No. 160, International Crisis Group, 2008, http://www.ssrnetwork.net/uploaded_files/4248.pdf, 1-30.

October 6: Review

October 13: First Mid-Semester Exam

Language and National Integration

October 18:

Read:

Paul Brass, *The Politics of India since Independence*, 1990, Ch. 5.

Tariq Rahman, "Language Problems and Politics in Pakistan," *Handbook*.

Crises of National Unity– Self-determination

October 20:

Read:

Sanjib Baruah, *Durable Disorder: Understanding the Politics of Northeast India*, Oxford University Press, 2005, Ch. 3.

October 25

Read:

Sumit Ganguly, "Explaining the Kashmir Insurgency," *International Security*, 1996, 21(2), 76-107.

Jayadeva Uyangoda, "Ethnic Conflict and the Civil War in Sri Lanka," *Handbook*.

Crises of National Unity– Caste

October 27:

Read:

Mark Galantar, *Competing Equalities: Law and the Backward Classes in India*, 1984, Ch.1 & 2.

November 1

Read:

Christophe Jaffrelot, "The Rise of the OBCs in North India?" *Journal of Asian Studies*, 62(4), 2000, 86-110.

Myron Weiner, "The Struggle for Equality: Caste in Indian Politics," *The Success of India's Democracy*, Atul Kohli ed., 2001, Ch. 6.

Crises of National Unity– Communalism

November 3:

Watch:

Nandita Das, *Firaaq*

Read:

Stanley Tambiah, "Reflections on Communal Violence in South Asia," *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 49 (4), 1990, 741-760.

November 8

Read:

Ashutosh Varshney, "Postmodernism, Civic Engagement and Ethnic Conflict," *Comparative Politics*, 30(1), 1997, 1-20.

Steven Wilkinson, "Commentary: Putting Gujarat in Perspective," *Religious Politics and Communal Violence*, Steven Wilkinson ed., 2005, Ch. 16.

Politics of Economic Development

November 10:

Read:

Atul Kohli, *The State and Poverty in India*, 1987, Introduction.

Sumanta Banerjee, "Radical and Violent Political Movements," *Handbook*.

Politics of Economic Reforms

November 15:

Read:

Devesh Kapur, "The Causes and Consequences of India's IT Boom," *India Review*, 1(2), 2002, 91-110.

Atul Kohli, "Politics of Economic Growth in India, 1980-2005 Part II: The 1990s and Beyond," *Economic and Political Weekly*, April 8, 2006, 1361-1370.

November 17: Review

November 22: Second Mid-Semester Exam

Gender and Politics

November 29:

Read:

Dooly Arora, "Structural Adjustment Programs and Gender Concerns in India," *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 29 (3), 1999, 328-361.

Mary Katzenstein, "The Mother and the State in India," *Asian Survey*, 40 (5), 2000.

International Politics

December 1:

Owen Bennett Jones, *Pakistan: Eye of the Storm*, 2002, Ch. 6.

December 6:

Read:

George Perkovich, *India's Nuclear Bomb: The Impact on Global Proliferation*, 2002, Ch. 15.

Vernon Hewitt, "International Politics of South Asia," *Handbook*.

Terrorism

December 8:

Read:

Mohammad Waseem, "Ethnic and Islamic Militancy in Pakistan," *Handbook*.

Ayesha Jalal, *Partisans of Allah*, 2008, Ch. 1.

December 13: Review