

**South Asian Politics (01:790:389:03)
Rutgers University–New Brunswick (Spring 2019)**

Location: TBD

Time: TBD

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Office Hours: (By appointment)

I: Course Overview and Goals

In this course we will familiarize ourselves with the complex politics of South Asia, a region home to one-fourth of the world's population. We begin by identifying what "South Asia" means according to certain powers who have used the term to mean different things according to historical moment. In doing so, we will begin to understand the major differences between and within countries in South Asia and some of the major causes of these differences. Although many of the countries have colonial pasts that might bring them together, more recently, political trajectories have included monarchies, military dictatorships and varying levels of democratic rule. As we explore these differences we will gain basic literacy in South Asian politics, such that we can critically consume of both journalistic and academic articles related to the region.

While the politics of governance shows us that there are interesting cases of democratization in the region, there is also much to be said about the rapidly growing economies many of these countries have. Where the region is often stereotyped with being in poverty, holding about 40 percent of the world's poor– it is also home to some of the world's richest individuals, including a number of billionaires. This inequality, as well as divides due to ethnicity, religion, caste, language and gender will be examined as we look at the various forms of conflict that persist in the subcontinent and its immediate neighbors. As we examine the diversity of the region, we will look at many of the challenges faced by this part of the world and think about what this might mean for the future. Last but not least, we will compare current political trends in the region to those occurring on a larger scale.

II: Course Requirements

Required Books, Other Readings and Policy on Electronic Devices

There are two required books for this course:

1. Bose, Sugata, and Ayesha Jalal. *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy, 3rd Edition*. Routledge, 2017. ["MSA" below]

2. Syedur Rahman, and Ahrar Ahmed. 2014. *Government and Politics in South Asia, 7th Edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. ["GP" below]

All other resources will be available on Sakai.

Note on Laptops and Other Electronic Devices

Laptops or tablets are immensely distracting. However, as many of our readings are on Sakai, I will allow laptops or tablets in class provided that they only be used for word processing and the readings. This said, if you are seen using your laptops or tablets for any non-course related purpose, it will negatively impact your participation grade. Furthermore, even if you use laptops or tablets for notetaking or reading purposes, no electronic devices can be accessible in the event of a quiz. This means that you should also always have a writing utensil and notebook paper on you.

In addition, please note that all of your assignments must be submitted as Microsoft Word attachments, so access to Microsoft Office is also a requirement. You should not submit any assignment as a Google doc.

Cellular phone use is not permitted. Cell phones must be put away (out of sight) and turned off for the duration of the class. Unauthorized cell phone usage will negatively impact your participation grade.

Course Assessments:

This is a reading-intensive class and these readings must be done before class starts. You are required to participate in class discussions and do your assignments on time. There will periodically be quizzes and graded in-class assignments. An overview of how your grade will be calculated is as follows:

Class participation	10%
Reading Responses (once a month)	30%
Quizzes & In-Class Assignments	30%
Final Exam	30%

Attendance and Participation:

Students are expected to attend all classes and should use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> in case of an absence. *There are no excused absences.* If you miss more than 2 classes, your final grade will go down 5 points for every additional absence. If you are late more than 20 minutes without communicating this lateness, it will count as an absence. Excessive lateness with or without informing me will also start counting as an absence after the third incident.

In this course, we will be having conversations about the readings and other materials that you are requested to analyze. This means that all students will enter the class ready to participate and having doing their reading assignments. If you find the questions difficult, your manner of entering the conversation may be a question or point of confusion. It will not be a lecture-driven course, but one where we all talk, respectful of differing viewpoints about the topics together. Failing to participate will negatively impact your final grade.

Reading Responses:

Every month from January to April you will be required to submit a written analysis based on one or more of the readings you are assigned to read for the course and a current news event. Each reading response should be a minimum of 800 words and will consist of a short summary of the reading, the incorporation of a news article from the past 18 months that deals with the topic of discussion and a reflective analysis of both. You can submit this assignment (via Sakai) at any point in the month **provided that it is at least one day and no more than a week before the assigned reading is due on the syllabus**. Each response is worth 10 points towards your final grade and will be graded pass/fail. If you pass the first three responses you submit, you do not need to submit a fourth response. Please be careful about what you submit as there are no resubmissions and ***late responses are not accepted***.

Quizzes & In-Class Assignments:

Quizzes and other in-class assignments account for 30 percent of your final grade. There are at least two quizzes which are usually open-book (but not open computer). Quizzes will usually be announced the week before they will be given. No make-up quizzes are allowed. Other in-class assignments or group work will also be factored into this percentage.

Final Exam:

Your final exam in this course will consist of three essay questions spanning the variety of subjects we will have covered in this course.

III: Office hours and Emails

I realize that this is a reading intensive course that covers a great deal of material which may be very unfamiliar to you. It is designed to be challenging to help you become a better reader, researcher and writer. That being said, I am here to help. Please feel free to email me at any time or arrange to meet with me after class. If you cannot meet with me during the hour after class, please let me know and we can coordinate to schedule a meeting for another time.

Email is the best ways of contacting me. Please email me through your Rutgers email account. When emailing, be sure to include a relevant subject in the subject line, write professionally and include your full name in closing. I will respond in a timely manner.

Plagiarism is unacceptable. All work for this course must adhere to the specific practices and ethos of the University's policy on academic integrity, which you must be read and become familiar with. The policy can be found at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>. Full compliance with the academic integrity policy is mandatory and any infractions will be punished.

Office of Disability Services: All students with special needs will be accommodated to the fullest extent possible. Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor early during the term and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services at the Kreeger Learning Center. That office is located at 151 College Avenue and may also be accessed through their website at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu>.

Class Calendar and Reading Schedule*

Introduction and Political History

Class 1: Why study South Asia?

Class 2: Colonialism and Company Raj

- MSA Chapters 6-8

Class 3: Rebellion and the Crown

- MSA Chapters 9-11

Class 4: Nation-building and Partition

- MSA Chapters 13-16

Class 5: Democracy in South Asia

- Tudor, Maya. 2013. "Explaining Democracy's Origins. Lessons from South Asia." *Comparative Politics* 45 (3): 253-272.

Class 6: Democratic institutions

- – GP, Chapter 3, pp. 44-54, 62-78
- – GP, Chapter 9
- – GP, Chapter 20

Political Overview

Class 7: India—Congress

- Hardgrave, Robert L., Jr., and Stanley A. Kochanek. 2008. *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation, 7th Edition*. Boston: Thomson Wadsworth, pp. 269-312.

Class 8: India—The BJP

- – Basu, Amrita. 2013. “The Changing Fortunes of the Bharatiya Janata Party.” In *Routledge Handbook of Indian Politics*, eds. Atul Kohli and Prerna Singh. London: Routledge, 81-90.
- – Sircar, Nilanjan. 2014. “The Numbers Game: An Analysis of the 2014 General Election.” *India in Transition*. June 16. <https://casi.sas.upenn.edu/iit/nsircar>

Class 9: India—Smaller parties

- – Palshikar, Suhas. 2013. “Regional and Caste Parties.” In *Routledge Handbook of Indian Politics*, eds. Atul Kohli and Prerna Singh. London: Routledge, 91-104.
- – Sridharan, E. 2002. “The Fragmentation of the Indian Party System, 1952-1999.” In *Parties and Party Politics in India*, ed. Zoya Hasan. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 475-503.

Class 10: Pakistan—From independence to Zia

- – GP, Chapter 10
- – GP, Chapter 12, pp. 217-222

Class 11: Pakistan—The 1990s to today

- – GP, Chapter 12, pp. 223-235
- – Malik, Anas. 2014. “Pakistan in 2013: A Milestone in Democratic Transition.” *Asian Survey* 54 (1): 177-189.

Class 12: Bangladesh

- – GP, Chapter 14, pp. 255-261
- – GP, Chapter 15, pp. 263-272
- – GP, Chapter 16

Class 13: Afghanistan and Myanmar

- Gendering Human Security in Afghanistan (Excerpts from various texts)
- Human Rights violations in Myanmar <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/burma>

Class 14: Sri Lanka and the Maldives

- – GP, Chapter 19, pp. 331-337
- – GP, Chapter 21, pp. 359-368
- De Votta, Neil. 2010. *Politics and Governance in Post-independence Sri Lanka*

Class 15: Nepal and Bhutan

- – Hachhetu, Krishna and Gellner, David. 2010. “Nepal: Trajectories of democracy and restructuring of the state”
- – GP, Chapter 25, pp. 399-405

Politics and Diversity

Class 16: Caste and its equivalents

- – Chaudhury, Pradipta. 2005. "Does Caste Indicate Deprivation?" *Seminar* 594. <http://www.india-seminar.com/2005/549/549%20pradipta%20chaudhury.htm>
- – Mahajan, Gurpreet. 2013. "Reservations." In *Routledge Handbook of Indian Politics*, eds. Atul Kohli and Prerna Singh. London: Routledge, 144-154.
- – Mehta, Pratap Bhanu. 2012. "The Quicksand of Caste." *Indian Express*. August 28. <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/the-quicksand-of-caste/994050>

Class 17: Religion and Religious Conflict

- Jaffrelot, Christophe, ed. 2007. *Hindu Nationalism: A Reader*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Part I.
- Shapiro, Jacob N. and C. Christine Fair. 2009/10. "Understanding Support for Islamist Militancy in Pakistan." *International Security* 34 (3): 79-118.

Class 18: Language, Region and Ethnicity

- Annamalai, E. 2010. "Politics of Language in India"
- Rahman, Tariq. 2010. "Language Problems and Politics in Pakistan"

Class 19: Gender

- – Basu, Amrita. 2010. "Gender and Politics." In *Oxford Companion to Politics in India*, eds. Niraja Gopal Jayal and Pratap Bhanu Mehta. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 168- 180.
- – Shehabuddin, Elora. 2014. "Gender and Democratic Politics in Bangladesh." In *Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia*, ed. Leela Fernandes. London: Routledge, pp. 70-83.

Political Challenges

Class 20: Clientelism and patronage

- – Chandra, Kanchan. 2004. "Elections as Auctions." *Seminar* 539. <http://www.india-seminar.com/2004/539/539%20kanchan%20chandra.htm>
- – Thachil, Tariq. 2011. "Embedded Mobilization: Nonstate Service Provision as Electoral Strategy in India." *World Politics* 63 (3): 434-49.

Class 21: Corruption

- – Kochanek, Stanley. 2010. "Corruption and the Criminalization of Politics in South Asia."
- – Vaishnav, Milan. 2012. "Money, Muscle, and the Market for India's Criminal Politicians." *India in Transition*. February 13. <http://casi.sas.upenn.edu/iit/vaishnav>

Class 22: Economic growth

- Kohli, Atul. 2006. “The Politics of Economic Growth in India, 1980-2005: Part II: The 1990s and Beyond.” *Economic and Political Weekly* 41 (14): 1361-1370.

Class 23: Poverty and inequality

- Drèze, Jean and Amartya Sen. 2011. “Putting Growth in Its Place.” *Outlook*. November 14. <http://www.outlookindia.com/article.aspx?278843> November 26 (W): Thanksgiving break

Class 24: Maoism in India and Nepal

- – GP, Chapter 28, pp. 459-468
- – Chandra, Kanchan. 2011. “Why is Democracy in India So Violent?” *Seminar* 620. http://www.india-seminar.com/2011/620/620_kanchan_chandra.htm

Class 25: South Asian Futures (Final Class)

*Please note that the instructor reserves the right to change the course reading schedule at any point during the semester. Any changes will be made with reasonable notice.