

Course Syllabus

GOV 347K Unique 38255 and ANS347K Unique 32180

Spring 2019

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Government and Politics of South Asia

(GC)

South Asia is bounded on the south by the Indian Ocean and on land by West Asia, Central Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia. This sub-region comprises eight developing countries—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. South Asia is home to well over one fifth of the world's population, making it the most populous geographical region in the world.

Since the end of the Cold War, South Asia has become a focal point of growing international attention and concern by nuclear proliferation, the rise of Islamic militancy and the anti-terror war, the emergence of India as a global power, and regional effort for cooperation. South Asian nations have also been experiencing a profound political evolution of democratization.

This course provides students with a comprehensive and systematic introduction to the comparative political study of the eight nations of South Asia. Organized in parallel fashion to facilitate cross-national comparison, the course sections on each nation address several topical areas of inquiry: political culture and heritage, government structure and institutions, political parties and leaders, and social conflict and resolution. India, the preeminent power of the subcontinent, will receive more attention. In terms of the international relations of the region, this course will address several predominant region-wide issues: the India–Pakistan conflict, the rise of Islamic militancy and the Afghanistan war, and regional cooperation under the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

This course also carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

Prerequisites:

Since this is an introductory course, a background in Asian studies or Government is recommended but not required.

Grading Policy:

Two mid-term exams (60%).

One short term paper of 6-7 pages (30%, first draft 15% and final draft 15%)

Overall class participation/attendance may be reflected in a plus or minus up to 10 points in determining the course grade.

Any student missing a mid-term exam with a verified medical excuse or for an official university event with a letter from the responsible university authority may choose to take a make-up exam or do an alternative assignment.

We will adopt UT's new "plus & minus" grading system in this course. The following is a list of letter grades, their corresponding GPA values, and the percentage values that I plan to use for your assignments. Note that these percentage scores will not be noted on your transcript.

Letter Grade	GPA	Percentage Score
=====	=====	=====
A	4.00	94-100
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.00	84-86
B-	2.67	80-83
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.00	74-76
C-	1.67	70-73
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.00	64-66
D-	0.67	60-63
F	0.00	59& below
=====	=====	=====

Textbooks:

The textbooks are all electronic resources and students can read them online or download them by purchase. We will just choose several chapters from each book as reading assignments.

1. Robert C. Oberst, et al, *Government and Politics in South Asia*, 7th Edition
New York: Westview Press, 2013. **(Electronic Resource) [GPSA]**
2. T.V. Paul ed., *South Asia's Weak States*, Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Security Studies, 2010.
(Electronic Resource) [SAWS]

3. Lawrence Saez, *The South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC)*, Hoboken: Taylor & Francis, 2012. **(Electronic Resource)**
4. During the course of the semester, additional latest articles on South Asia may be added and distributed as required readings in class.

References:

5. Paul R. Brass ed., *Routledge Handbook of South Asian Politics: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal* (Hoboken: Taylor & Francis, 2010).
6. Neil Devotta ed., *An Introduction to South Asian Politics* (New York: Routledge, 2016)

Accommodations

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

Academic Integrity

Each student is expected to uphold the University of Texas at Austin Honor Code:

The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/ or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>. Refer to the Dean of Students Student Judicial Services website or call 471-2841 for the official university policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty.

Religious Holidays

By UT at Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Recommendations Regarding Emergency Evacuation

Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>: Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050 Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency

Class Schedule

Jan.22 (T)

Introduction to the Course

Jan. 24 (TH)

The instructor in classroom for Q&A.

Since our textbooks are all electronic resources, please check all our required textbooks and reference readings and go over the contents of the text books and list what topics are in these books and reading materials. Please list the topics you think relevant to our course and email this homework to me before the class meeting of January 23 (3 pages).

I. General Survey of South Asia

1. The Changing South Asia

Jan. 29 (T)

- (1) A Political Map of South Asia
<https://www.mapsofworld.com/asia/south-asia-geography.html>
<http://mapsof.net/map/map-of-south-asia>
<http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00maplinks/>
- (2) South Asia, From Wikipedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia
- (3) South Asia: peoples, Politics, Economics, Geography, and Definitions
<http://www.cotf.edu/earthinfo/sasia/SAdef.html>
- (4) SAWS: Introduction

2. Political Development of South Asia

Jan. 31 (TH)

- (1) SAWS: 2. State Failure and States Poised to Fail
- (2) SAWS: 3. State Formation, Consolidation, and the Security Challenges
- (3) SAWS: 4. State, Nations, and the Regional Security Order

Feb 5 (T)

- (1)SAWS: 5.State Globalization and State Capacity
- (2)SAWS: 6.Symbiosis and Fracture

Feb. 7 (TH)

Questions for Group Discussion

- (1) Geography, Peoples, Ethnicities, Religions, capitals and big cities.
- (2) Political systems, major political parties, political leaders
- (3) Major ethnic and religious conflicts, wars

II. Introduction to South Asian Countries**3. India****Feb. 12 (T)**

- (1)SAWS: 7. Polity, Security and Foreign Policy in Contemporary India
- (2)GPSA: 2. Political Culture and heritage
- (3)GPSA: 3. State Institutions and Changing Political Dynamics

Feb. 14 (TH)

- (1) GPSA: 4. Shifting perspectives About Political Parties and Political leaders
- (2) GPSA: 7. Modernization and Development with Indian Characteristics

Feb. 19 (T)

Question for group discussions:

- *Review India's political culture, institutions, political parties, and political leaders.
- *Identify major challenges and prospects

4. Pakistan**Feb. 21 (TH)**

- (1)SAWS: 8. Weak State, failed State, Garrison State: The Pakistan Saga
- (2)GPSA: 8.Political Culture and Heritage
- (3)GPSA: 9.Constitutional Structure

Feb. 26 (T)

- (1) GPSA: 10. Political Parties and Political leaders
- (2) GPSA: 13.Problems and Prospects

Feb. 28 (TH)

Questions for Group Discussion:

- *Review Pakistan's Political culture, institutions, political parties and leaders;
- *Identify and analyze problems and conflicts in the Pakistani Society;

March 5 (T)

Review the chapters of South Asia, India, and Pakistan.

March 7 (TH)

The students prepare for the first mid-term examination.
The instructor in classroom for Q&A.

March 12 (T)**The First Mid-term Examination in the classroom****March 14 (TH)***** How to write a qualified paper proposal?**

Discuss the first mid-term examination

March 16-23: Spring Break**March 26 (T)**

The instructor in classroom for Q&A.

Students continue to do research in library and prepare for term paper Proposal
(3 pages, title, thesis, and at least 5 references).

***Submit your term paper proposal by email.**

5. *Afghanistan***March 28 (TH)**

- (1) SAWS: 9. Afghanistan: A Weak State in the Path of Power Rivalries
- (2) Afghanistan
<http://www.infoplease.com/country/afghanistan.html>
- (3) Afghanistan
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan>
- (4) Afghanistan
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

April 2 (T)

- (1) President Trump on Strategy in Afghanistan and South Asia
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-strategy-afghanistan-south-asia/>
- (2) White House Divided
By Peter J. Boyer, *The Magazine*, August 21, 2017 |
<http://www.weeklystandard.com/white-house-divided/article/2009255>
- (3) Why the Taliban Isn't Winning in Afghanistan
By Seth G. Jones, *Foreign Affairs*, January 3, 2018
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/afghanistan/2018-01-03/why-taliban-isnt-winning-afghanistan?cid=nlc-fa_fatoday-20180103
- (4) Why we aren't 'winning' in Afghanistan
By Aaron B. O'Connell, *Washington Post*, August 10, 2017

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/america-is-relying-too-much-on-military-power-in-afghanistan/2017/08/10/102a565e-7d19-11e7-a669-b400c5c7e1cc_story.html?tid=hybrid_collaborative_1_na&utm_term=.cfb9a1a8d8f5

6. Bangladesh

April 4 (TH)

- (1) SAWS: 11. “A Weak State” with Multiple Security Challenges
- (2) GPSA: 14. Political Culture and heritage
- (3) GPSA: 15. Government Institutions

April 9 (T)

- (1) GPSA: 16. Elections, Parties, and Interest Groups
- (2) GPSA: 18. Modernization and Development

7. Nepal

April 11 (TH)

- (1) SAWS: 12. Rebellion and State Formation in Nepal
- (2) GPSA: 25. Political heritage and Culture
- (3) GPSA: 26. Political Institutions and Government Processes

*** Explain Requirements for writing a qualified paper.**

April 16 (T)

- (1) GPSA: 27. Political Parties, Elections, and leaders
- (2) GPSA: 29. Modernization and Development

8. Sri Lanka

April 18 (TH)

- (1) SAWS: 10. Challenges in State Consolidation and Minority Integration
- (2) GPSA: 19. Political Culture and Heritage
- (3) GPSA: 20. Government structure

April 23 (T)

- (1) GPSA: 21. Political Parties and Interest Groups
 - (2) GPSA: 24. Modernization and Development
 - (3) Introduction to the Maldives and Bhutan
- *Submit the first draft of the term paper (15 points)**
(Please **Email** your drafts to the Instructor).

9. Regional Integration and Cooperation

April 25 (TH)

- (1) SAARC: Introduction

(2) SAARC: Future Challenges

III. The Future of South Asia

10. *South Asia as a Region in the World System*

April 30 (T)

- (1) SAWS: 13. Transforming South Asia: Is a Pluralistic Security Community feasible?
- (2) GPSA: 30. The Future: South Asia as a Region and a Player in the World System

May 2 (TH)

Reviews the chapters of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and SAARC.

May 7 (T)

The second mid-term examination in the classroom

May 9 (TH)

Last class meeting

- * Make comments on the course and conduct the Course Instructor Survey.
- * Submit one hard copy of the final draft of the term paper in class and also send it by Email (15 points).