

# **Course Syllabus**

**GOV 347K (Unique 38605) and ANS347K (Unique 32665)**

**Spring 2021**

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Instructor: Xuecheng Liu

Days & Time: TTH 12:30-14:00 pm

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## **Government and Politics of South Asia**

**(GC)**

### **Course Description:**

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 AfPak 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.

The University of Texas at Austin considers that freedom of academic expression, open discourse, and intellectual inquiry are an integral part of our educational mission. This course calls for candid discussions of potentially sensitive geopolitical and geocultural matters. In particular, the content and activities for the course could be deemed sensitive or illegal by non-U.S. governments. While the university makes every effort to provide safe spaces for all instructors and learners, under the current circumstances where most learning activities are conducted online, members of the academic community should be aware that privacy cannot be guaranteed.

### **Prerequisites:**

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

### **The format of the online meeting for this course**

This course is related to South Asian politics and inter-state relationship. It is intended to fulfil two tasks: Study the political development of South Asian region and learn the basic skill of academic writing. Because of the severe pandemic situation, the students will not stay on campus and probably stay at home in different places of the United States as well as in different countries of Asia. The students staying in certain Asian countries may not be able to get access to the Zoom by the government regulations or accidental interrupted internet services during the scheduled class meetings. Considering these difficulties and inconveniences, the synchronous lecturing online can make students stay up during the night and even early morning or cannot get access to the online lecture. So I will post my written lectures on Canvas one day earlier than the scheduled class meeting and let our students read my written lectures and assigned readings before the scheduled class meeting.

During the online meeting, I will explain several key points and answer the key questions raised by the students. Our students online may talk about your own ideas and views about the relevant topics in the lecture. Our lecturing meeting can also have time for discussion. I

will also post my answers to the key questions raised by the students on Canvas and then the students who have not been able to attend the online meeting can read them on canvas at any convenient time. However, when I explain the requirements for writing the essay and paper proposal and drafts, I urge all the students to try your best to attend the online meetings because you may not fully understand the specifics of the written requirements.

**In terms of participation, considering the severe pandemic crisis and the volatile local internet services, attendance at the online meeting is unnecessarily required, but all the students must make a statement to me by email before the scheduled class meeting that you have read the assignments and email your questions to me if any ( My class email address: xcliu\_ut@yahoo.com). This statement means that you have attended the class meetings. If I have not received your statement, you would be considered as absent. If the students cannot get access to the internet at the scheduled online meeting, you may report the reason of your absence to me after your internet is available.**

**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 Grading Reference:

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*, 7<sup>th</sup> 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)** [SAARC]
4. Paul R. Brass ed., *Routledge Handbook of South Asian Politics: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal* (Hoboken: Taylor & Francis, 2010). **(Electronic Resource)** [RH]
5. Neil Devotta ed., *An Introduction to South Asian Politics* (New York: Routledge, 2016). **(Electronic Resource)** [ISAP]
6. During the course of the semester, additional latest articles on South Asia may be added and distributed as required readings in class.

### **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](http://www.utexas.edu/emergency)

## **Class Schedule**

### **Jan. 19 (T)**

Introduction to the Course

### **Jan. 21 (TH)**

The instructor will stay online for Q&A related to the course syllabus.

Since our textbooks are all electronic resources, please check all our required textbooks and reference readings and go over the contents of the textbooks and identify and familiarize what topics are in these E-books and reading materials. Also, please learn how to get access to the electronic resources of the PCL and find your assigned readings. The instructor can also advise you how to do it.

## **I. General Survey of South Asia**

### ***1. The Changing South Asia***

### **Jan. 26 (T)**

#### **Reading Assignments:**

- (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/mealc/pritchett/00maplinks/>
- (2) South Asia, From Wikipedia  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_Asia](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. 28 (TH)**

#### **Reading Assignments:**

- (1) SAWS: 2. State Failure and States Poised to Fail
- (2) SAWS: 3. State Formation, Consolidation, and the Security Challenges
- (3) GPSA: Introduction

**Feb. 2 (T)**

**Reading Assignments**

- (3) SAWS: 4. State, Nations, and the Regional Security Order
- (4) SAWS: 5. State Globalization and State Capacity

**Feb. 4 (TH)**

**Summarize the Above Lectures and Review the Following Issues:**

- (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. 9 (T)**

**Reading Assignments:**

- (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. 11 (TH)**

**Reading Assignments:**

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

**Feb.16 (T)**

**Summarize and Review the Following Issues:**

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

### **4. Pakistan**

**Feb.18 (TH)**

**Reading Assignments:**

- (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. 23 (T)**

**Reading Assignments:**

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

**Feb. 25 (TH)**

**Summarize and Review the Following Issues:**

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

**March 2 (T)**

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

**March 4 (TH)**

The students prepare for the first mid-term examination.  
The instructor will stay online for Q&A.

**March 9 (T)**

**The First Mid-term Examination online**

**March 11 (TH)**

**Lecture on the requirements for writing a paper proposal**  
**\* How to write a paper proposal?**

**March 15-20: Spring Break**

**March 23 (T)**

The instructor will stay online and get ready for Q&A.  
Students continue to do research in library and prepare for the paper Proposal  
(3pages, title, thesis, and at least 5 references, Double space and font 12).  
Remarks on the first mid-term examination  
**Submit the paper proposal by email before 11:59 pm.**



## 5. Afghanistan

**March 25 (TH)**

**Reading Assignments:**

- (1) SAWS: 9. Afghanistan: A Weak State in the Path of Power Rivalries
- (2) Afghanistan  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

**March 30 (T)**

**Reading Assignments:**

- (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](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](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)
- (5) US Troops Withdraw from Afghanistan ( Three latest analytical articles by email )

## 6. Bangladesh

**April 1 (TH)**

**Reading Assignments:**

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

**April 6(T)**

**Reading Assignments:**

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

## **7. *Nepal***

**April 8 (TH)**

**Reading Assignments:**

- (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 term paper.**

**April 13 (T)**

**Reading Assignments:**

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

## **8. *Sri Lanka***

**April 15 (TH)**

**Reading Assignments:**

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

**April 20 (T)**

GPSA: 21. Political Parties and Interest Groups

- (1) GPSA: 24. Modernization and Development
- (2) Introduction to the Maldives and Bhutan

**\*Submit the first draft of the term paper (15 points)**

(Please **Email** your drafts to the Instructor before 11:59 pm).

## **9. *Regional Integration and Cooperation***

**April 22 (TH)**

**Reading Assignments:**

- (1) SAARC: Introduction
- (2) SAARC: Future Challenges

### **III. The Future of South Asia**

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

**April 27(T)**

**Reading Assignments:**

- (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

**April 29(TH)**

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

**May 4 (T)**

**The second mid-term examination online**

**May 6(TH)**

Last class meeting online

- \* Make comments on the course and conduct the Course Instructor Survey online.
- \* Submit the final draft of the term paper by email before 11:59 pm.