

POLITICAL SCIENCE 234
POLITICS OF SOUTH ASIA
Fall 2009

Sangha Padhy
Office: Chambers 2009
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Class: MWF 1:30-2:20 pm

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 2:30-3:30
Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-11:00

11/27 Mumbai terrorist attacks revealed the vulnerabilities of South Asian security and stability. While developed democracies raised travel warnings to tourists visiting countries in the region, foreign investment and businesses going in to the emerging markets of India have shown steady growth. Further the recent elections of 2009 in India, the defeat of LTTE in Sri Lanka, fall of monarchy in Nepal speaks of the immense potential of democracy in the region. Once written off by political pundits, the region is a puzzle due to the divergent engagements with democracy, its diversity, its nuclear capabilities and the potential it holds for development. Alongside the democratic and developmental debates in these post colonial states, issues such as terrorism, environment and nuclear security are prominent political questions that need to be studied within the historical, social and international context of South Asia.

This course introduces students to the history and contemporary politics of South Asia, especially on India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In this class we will study 5 substantive themes of South Asian politics- political institutional building and patterns of governance, ethnic and religious conflict, development, environment and security.

Required Readings:

There are two required text for this class along with additional readings, which will be made available on Blackboard.

Stephen P Cohen. *The Idea of Pakistan*. Brookings Institution Press, 2004.

Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal. *Modern South Asia: History, Culture and Political Economy*. London: Routledge, 1998.

In addition, students are required to read South Asia related news. You are expected to read at least one Indian or Pakistani newspaper and periodicals along with NYT/IHT and Economist. We will review important news in class.

Some selected websites to newspapers are:

The Times of India: <http://www.timesofindia.com>

The Hindu: <http://www.hinduonline.com>

Dawn: <http://www.dawn.com>

Daily News: <http://www.dailynews.lk/>

There may be some occasional changes to the syllabus- always check for updates and pay attention to class announcements.

Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance is an important criterion for this class. More than three unexcused absences will result in a 3 points deduction (per absence) in the final grade. Excused absence will be granted only for serious personal illness or injury, family emergency or authorized college activity: excused absences generally require documentation from college officials.
2. All students are expected to read and comment on the assigned material. These will add towards your participation points.
3. All deadlines are to be strictly followed.

Assignments and Grading:

Each student's performance will be evaluated in the following respects.

- Class Participation 10%
- Midterm 20%
- Short Essay 10%
- Research Project 40%
 - Research Proposal 5%
 - Literature Review 5%
 - Final Paper 20%
 - Research Presentation 10%
- Final Review 20%

You will receive a detailed handout on your research project by the second week of class.

Deadlines of the various assignments are mentioned in the class schedule. Late papers will be marked down by a third of a letter grade.

Plagiarism is a very serious offense that will get you in trouble. The Honor Code is one of Davidson's most cherished institutions. Let's keep it that way!

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Full accommodations are the legal right of students with all kinds of disabilities, whether learning disabilities or physical disabilities. I am happy to provide these accommodations. If you are a student with a learning disability documented by Davidson College, please identify yourself to me so I can learn from you as early as possible how to work best with your learning style. Students with other disabilities are also encouraged to self-identify if there is any way in which accommodations can be made so as to enhance your learning experience. All such discussions will be fully confidential unless you otherwise stipulate.

Class Schedule and Topics

WEEK 1

August 24th:

Introduction

Historical Legacy of South Asia

August 26:

Bose and Jalal, Chapter 1 and pp. 53-86.

August 28:

Bose and Jalal, pp. 102-134.

WEEK 2

Colonial Legacies of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

August 31:

Bose and Jalal, Chapter 16.

Stephen Cohen, Introduction and Chapter 1.

September 2:

Cohen: Chapter 2, 39-54.

Social Coalitions and Authoritarianism

September 4:

Barrington Moore. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy in South Asia*, Boston: Beacon Press, Preface and Chapter 6, pp. 314-410.

Anirudh Krishna. "Poverty and Democratic Participation Reconsidered: Evidence from the Local Level in India." *Comparative Politics* 38:4, July 2006, pp. 439-458.

Research Guideline will be given in class.

WEEK 3

Political Institutions in India

September 7:

Ramachandra Guha. "Ideas of India." In *India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2007, pp. 115-134.

Myron Weiner. "Institution Building in South Asia." In R. Scalapino edited, *Asian Political Institutionalization*, University of California, Berkeley, 1986, pp. 288-312.

Ashutosh Varshney. "Why Democracy Survives." *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 9:8, pp. 36-50.

September 9:

M.V Rajeev Gowda and E. Sridharan. "Parties and the Party System, 1947-2006." in Sumit Ganguly, Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner. *The State of India's Democracy*. John Hopkins University Press: Baltimore, 2007.

September 11:

Library Session

WEEK 4

Political Institutions in Pakistan

September 14:

Cohen, pp. 54-96.

September 16:

Cohen, pp. 131-160.

Military and Politics: Pakistan and Bangladesh

September 18:

Hamza Alavi. "The State in Post Colonial Societies." *New Left Review*, July 1972.

Cohen, Chapter 3, 97-130.

WEEK 5

September 21:

Saeed Shafqat. Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan, Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, Chater 2, pp. 21-56.

Judiciary and Politics in India and Pakistan

September 23:

Lawyer's Movement Pakistan: Excerpts from IHT, Dawn, Hindu and TOI.

September 25:

Pratap Bhanu Mehta. "The Rise of Judicial Sovereignty" in Sumit Ganguly, Larry Diamond and Marc F Plattner. The State of India's Democracy, Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 2007.

Research Proposal due in class

WEEK 6

Religion and the State

September 28

Mark Jurgensmeyer. "The New Religious State" Comparative Politics. Vol. 27, No.4 (Jul 1995), pp. 379-391.

September 30

Film: In the Name of God

October 2

MIDTERM

WEEK 7

Religion and Politics: India and Pakistan

October 5:

Thomas Hansen. The Saffron Wave: Democracy and Hindu Nationalism in Modern India, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1999, pp. 3-15, 134-153.

October 7:

Cohen, Chapter 5.

October 9:

Cohen, Chapter 6.

WEEK 8

Identity Politics

October 14:

Christophe Jaffrelot. "Caste and the rise of Marginalized Groups." In Sumit Ganguly, Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner. John Hopkins University Press: Baltimore. 2007, pp. 67-85.

Additional readings from newspaper.

October 16:

Discussion on Affirmative Action Politics

Essay 1 due

WEEK 9

Ethnic Conflict and Nation Building Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan

October 19:

Hardgrave.

http://ezproxy.lib.davidson.edu:2087/journals/journal_of_democracy/v004/4.4hardgrave.pdf

Ashutosh Varshney. Ethnic Conflict.

http://ezproxy.lib.davidson.edu:2087/journals/world_politics/v053/53.3varshney.pdf

October 21:

Ronald Herring. " Making Ethnic Conflict: The Civil War in Sri Lanka." In R.J Herring and M. Esman. International Aid and Ethnic Conflict. Cornell University Press.

Readings from IHT and Economist.

Redefining Development

October 23:

Jalal and Bose, Chapter 19

India's Development in Comparative Perspective

Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, India: Economic Development and Social Opportunity, Chapter 3, 27-56.

WEEK 10

October 26:

Aseema Sinha. "Economic Growth and Political Accomodation". In Sumit Ganguly, Larry Diamond and Marc F Plattner. *The State of India's Democracy*, Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 2007.

Readings from the Economist.

October 28:

Amita Baviskar. "The Dream Machine: The Model Developmental Project and the Remaking of the State." In Amita Baviskar ed. *Waterscapes*. pp. 281-313.

October 30:

Film: *Dam/Age*

Literature Review due

WEEK 11

November 2:

Arundhati Roy. "The Greater Common Good." *Frontline*, June 4, 1999.
Gail Omvedt. "Response to Arundhati Roy." *Frontline*, 1999.

November 4:

Barnett Rubin, *The Fragmentation of Afghanistan*, pp. 191-225.

November 6:

Ramjee Parajulee. *The Democratic Transition in Nepal*, Chapter 3.

WEEK 12

November 9:

D. Hugh Evans. "Bangladesh: An Unsteady Democracy." In Amita Shastri and A. Jeyaratnam Wilson. *The Post Colonial States of South Asia*. Palgrave: New York, 2001, pp.69-87.

November 11:

Sumit Ganguly. "The Flash-Point of South Asia: Kashmir in Indo-Pakistani Relations." In Amita Shastri and A. Jeyaratnam Wilson. *The Post Colonial States of South Asia*. Palgrave: New York, 2001, pp. 311-325.

November 13:

Ashok Kapur. "Pokhran II and After: Consequences of the Indian Nuclear Tests of 1998." In Amita Shastri and A. Jeyaratnam Wilson. *The Post Colonial States of South Asia*. Palgrave: New York, 2001, pp.326-346.

WEEK 13

November 16 :

Peer review of research.

South Asia and the World

November 18:

Stephen Cohen. Pp. 301-328.

Rough draft due

November 20:

Ashley Tellis:.

http://ezproxy.lib.davidson.edu:2087/journals/washington_quarterly/v031/31.4.tellis.pdf

Prem Gandhi. "India-US Economic Relations: A Perspective." In Ashok Kapur et al. *India and the US in a Changing World*. Sage: 2002, pp. 328-348.

Bhabani Sen Gupta. "India in the Twentyfirst Century." *International Affairs*, Vol 73, No.2, Asia and the Pacific, 1997, pp. 297-314.

WEEK 14

November 23:

South Asia Futures

Jalal and Bose, Chapter 20.

Cohen. Chapter 8, pp. 267-299

Readings from the Economist.

WEEK 15

November 30:

Presentation

December 2:

Presentation

December 4:

Presentation

Final Paper due

WEEK 16

December 7:

Final Comments and Course Evaluations