Course Syllabus

GOV 347K and ANS347K
Unique 38850 and 31680

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Spring 2013
Instructor Xuecheng Liu-
Bldg / Room: GAR 0.128
Days & Time: TTh 12:30-14:00
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Office Hours: Tue. 14:00-17:00 or by appointment
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Government and Politics of South Asia

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 the greatest attention. In treating 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).

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 (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.

There will be no makeup exams for the mid-term exams. 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 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 be recorded on Blackboard for our purposes only, not be noted on your transcript.

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<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Percentage Score</th>
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<tr>
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<td>4.00</td>
<td>94-100 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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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.


4. During the course of the semester, additional latest articles on South Asia may be added and distributed as required readings in class.

References:


**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.
Class Schedule

Jan.15 (T)
Introduction to the Course

I. General Survey of South Asia

1. The Changing South Asia

Jan. 17 (TH)

(1) A Political Map of South Asia
   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

Jan. 22 (T)

No class meeting. 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 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 24 (3 pages).

2. Political Development of South Asia

Jan. 24 (Th)

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

Jan. 29 (T)

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

Jan. 31 (Th)

Questions for Group Discussion

(1) Geography, Peoples, Ethnics, 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. 5 (T)
(1) SAWS: 7. Polity, Security and Foreign Policy in Contemporary India
(2) GPSA: 2. Political Culture and Heritage
(3) GPSA: 3. Political Institutions, Government Processes

Feb. 7 (Th)
(1) GPSA: 4. Political Parties and Political leaders
(2) GPSA: 7. Modernization and Development

Feb. 12 (T)
Question for group discussions:
* Review India’s political culture, institutions, political parties, and political leaders.
* Identify major challenges and prospects

4. Pakistan

Feb. 14 (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. 19 (T)
(1) GPSA: 10. Political Parties and Political leaders
(2) GPSA: 11. Conflict and Mediation
(3) GPSA: 13. Problems and Prospects

Feb. 21 (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;

Feb. 26 (T)
Review the parts of South Asia

Feb. 28 (Th)
Review the parts of India and Pakistan
* How to write a qualified paper?

March 5 (T)
The First Mid-term Examination in the classroom
March 7 (Th)
No class meeting. Do research in library and prepare for term paper Proposal (one or two pages, title, thesis, and references).

March 11-16: Spring Break

March 19 (T)
No class meeting. Continue to do research in library and prepare for term paper Proposal (one or two pages, title, thesis, and references).
Submit your term paper proposal by email.

5. Afghanistan

March 21 (Th)
(1) SAWS: 9. Afghanistan: A Weak State in the Path of Power Rivalries
(2) Afghanistan
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan
(3) South Asia: Afghanistan

March 26 (T)
(1) Adam Simpson, One Step Forward, Two Steps back, (A research report, 2012, distributed by email)
(2) Afghanistan: The long, Hard Road to the 2014 Transition, (A ICG research report, 2012, distributed by email)

6. Bangladesh

March 28 (Th)
(1) SAWS: 11. “A Weak State” with Multiple Security Challenges
(2) GPSA: 14. Political Culture and heritage
(3) GPSA: 15. Government Institutions

April 2(T)
(1) GPSA: 16. Elections, Parties, and Interest Groups
(2) GPSA: 17. Conflict and Resolutions
(3) GPSA: 18. Modernization and Development

7. Nepal

April 4(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

April 9 (T)
(1) GPSA: 27. Political Parties, Elections, and leaders
(2) GPSA: 28. Class and Identity Conflicts
(3) GPSA: 29. Modernization and Development

8. Sri Lanka

April 11 (Th)
(1) SAWS: 10. Challenges in State Consolidation and Minority Integration
(2) GPSA: 19. Political Culture and Heritage
(3) GPSA: 20. Government structure
Submit the first draft of the term paper (15 points)
(Please Email your drafts to the Instructor).

April 16 (T)
(1) GPSA: 21. Political Parties and Interest Groups
(2) GPSA: 22. Conflict mediation: Ethnic Conflict and War
(3) GPSA: 24. Modernization and Development

April 18 (Th)
Reviews the parts of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and SAARC

April 23 (T)
The second mid-term examination in the classroom

III. The Future of South Asia

9. Regional Integration and Cooperation
April 25 (Th)
(1) SAARC: Introduction
(2) SAARC: Future Challenges
(Brief Introduction to Bhutan and the Maldives)

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)
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 sent by Email (15 points).