PSCI 359: POLITICS OF SOUTH ASIA
Fall 2018
Monday and Wednesday 1:00 to 2:15 pm, RCH 204

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Office Location: Hagey Hall 349
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 11:00 to 12:30 pm

Course Description: South Asia finds itself at the intersection of rich cultural and civilizational boundaries. Consequently, it provides compelling examples and cases to understand the interaction between international and domestic politics. The politics of individual South Asian states cannot be understood without reference to international influences in the region. Moreover, South Asia’s location makes it an important geo-strategic flashpoint in the world; historically, it was at the crossroads of two great empires (British and Soviet) and played a critical role during the Cold War between the superpowers USA and USSR. More recently, India and Pakistan have emerged as nuclear powers. In the wake of 9/11 and the rising tide of religious extremism international focus is once more directed towards South Asia. Today the world carefully follows the development of the Sino-Indo-Pak strategic triangle as China and India emerge as contending regional hegemons. This course will provide students with the analytical tools to understand the international politics of the region and how it has shaped domestic political considerations.

Pre-Requisites: At least 3A

Course Objectives:
By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Develop a political imagination for the geostrategic importance of South Asian states through personal reflection and reading print and online media.
- Explain the complexity of international politics and foreign policy concerns among South Asian states on the one hand, and relations between South Asian states and world powers on the other hand.
- Define and utilize concepts and terms that are central to the international politics of South Asia through discussion and writing.
- Evaluate the nuances of political decision-making in the South Asian context in comparison to the rest of the world.
- Debate the impact of foreign policy decisions on the various political actors (states and citizens) involved.
- Propose and present policy solutions in response to potentially real-life conflict scenarios in South Asia by applying the knowledge gained in this course.

Texts:
All readings will be available in pdf or html format on the course website in LEARN.
Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Evaluation:
Attendance and Class Participation 20%
Film Review 15%
Policy Exercise 15%
Policy Debate 15%
Congressional Testimony 15%
Research Essay 20%

Assignments:

Film Review: (15%)
In a short essay (750 words) review one of the films/documentaries listed below:
- *Silent Waters* by Sabiha Kumar (99 minutes) Full length available on YouTube
- *1947 Earth* (101 minutes) Full length available on YouTube
- *Train to Pakistan*
- *Garam Hawa* (Warm Wind)
This is not meant to be a regular review in which the plot of the film is summarised and the artistic quality of the film-making is judged. Instead, watch the film with an eye for how issues of Partition of the Sub-continent in 1947 are being addressed.

You should not do any additional research or make reference to any outside works in writing this review. The aim is to develop your writing and analytical skills, not your research skills. The film forms the raw material on which you are to make a coherent and critical argument about South Asian politics.

This is a critical interpretation of the film. You might want to briefly introduce what the film is about in general, but very quickly you need to impose some rational or intellectual order on the overall themes of the film. This gives the paper coherence and allows you keep a focus on your question and its answer, using the film critically for this purpose. Due Date: September 26, 2018

Policy Exercise: (15%)
You will be placed in a particular decision-making scenario and as India’s Prime Minister you will be asked to make choices concerning an important international relations issue. You will be provided with factual background information for a hypothetical crisis confronting the leader, and questions that should shape your policy decision.

Choose your policy keeping in mind the trade-offs between your various options; the risks and rewards in choosing one policy over another; alternative options that could address the problem; the costs of a particular option in the long and short-term; whether you can defend your decision to other colleagues; how your decision will affect the country and also your political survival. Reflect on the logic and process by which you reach a decision. Which factors seem more important and why? Are domestic and international factors important? Are the constraints you face based on capability (military, economic) or do international law and norms also impact your decision?
In the paper that you will submit you are required to answer the questions given in the "choose your policy" section. Your answer (1000 words) should demonstrate careful reflection over the issues at hand. **Due Date: October 12, 2018**

**Policy Debate: (15%)**

Research the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from the perspective of both China and Pakistan. Debate whether the huge financial investment being made by China is likely to beneficial both countries in the long-run. Think about China’s interests, Pakistan’s willingness to indebt itself to China by taking on this loan, the domestic implications for Pakistan, the consequences for regional politics. Imagine that you are a Pakistani government official in the ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning. Argue your position on the CPEC convincingly in 750 words. **Due Date: October 29, 2018**

**Congressional Testimony: (15%)**

The House of Representatives Foreign Relations committee is investigating why the United States is still committing troops in Afghanistan. As an expert in South Asian politics, you have been asked to present a testimony of 750-1000 words explaining “why a good war went bad”. **Due Date: November 21, 2018**

**Research essay: (20%)**

You are expected to write a research essay (1500-2000 words) in response to any topic of your choosing relevant to South Asia’s politics. Formulate a research question based on the topic. This is an opportunity to display your own individual proficiency on the topic. Follow the standard format for an expository essay (8-10 pages). This assignment will require external research (academic sources including newspapers and media sources), therefore, please reference accurately and consistently (Chicago Style Manual is preferred). Please also make sure that your document is formatted correctly (double-spaced, 1” margins on all sides, Times New Roman, Font size 12). **Due Date: December 5, 2018**

**Class Attendance and Participation:**

**Attendance: (5%)**

The professor will be taking attendance in the first ten minutes of each class starting Week 3, September 24. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to ensure that you are marked present. While your absence will not be accommodated, you can make up your participation points only if it is an officially documented extenuating circumstance (see course policies). Attendance is worth 5% of the grade, with each class being 0.25% of your grade.

**Participation: (15%)**

Your participation will be assessed starting in Week 3, September 24 in each session separately. You have to be present in class to earn participation points unless it is an officially documented extenuating circumstance. There are four ways to earn participation points:

1) You may send in questions which you would like the instructor to respond to pertaining to the class topic. To be eligible for participation points you should submit your questions by midnight on Sunday or Tuesday on the discussion board on LEARN. Please make sure you start a new thread.
2) You may respond to the discussion questions listed in the course outline for each session by uploading your 350 word response to the appropriate folder on LEARN by 12:30 pm on the day of class (either Monday or Wednesday).

3) Each class will start with a discussion of “South Asia in the News.” You may earn participation points by contributing to these discussions. Read the newspaper avidly for events and political on-goings in South Asia and bring your observations and thoughts to class.

4) You may engage in class discussion by answering and asking questions, forming opinions etc. While each student should participate frequently in discussions, the quality of the contribution is more important than quantity.

Grading rubric for participation:

- 4 points: Present in class, listening attentively, participating actively and making cogent contributions to class discussion (see below for positive and negative evaluation)
- 3 points: Present in class, listening attentively, participating in class discussion (see below for positive and negative evaluation)
- 2 points: Present in class, listening to the lecture, but clearly not participating in class discussion
- 1 point: Present in class but visibly distracted
- No points: Not present in class, no officially-documented extenuating circumstance

- Positively Evaluated: Responding to others’ remarks or questions in a serious and thoughtful manner; drawing together ideas to create new ones; showing respect and interest for other arguments and points of view; engaging others in pertinent and informed dialogue; curiosity in the origin of other points of view; wit and insight.

- Negatively Evaluated: The domination of class discussion by means of volume, tone, or sarcasm; 100% speaking or 100% listening with little attempt to balance both; refusal to acknowledge other points of view; not listening or appearing to listen; intemperate interruptions; uninformed or glib answers, including just general opinion; lack of weekly preparation.

Course FAQs:

Course Website  How do I login?
Users can login to LEARN via: http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/. Use your WatIAM/Quest username and password

What can I find on the course website?
The course outline, detailed assignments, class announcements, grades, etc. will be available on the course website on LEARN.

Where do I find the readings?
Each week’s readings and lecture slides will appear under individual modules titled Week 1, Week 2 and so on

Where do I find assignment instructions and rubrics?
Under the module titled assignments
Submission of Assignments

**When do I have to submit an assignment?**
Submit your assignment before the due date specified in the course outline by 4:30 pm. Assignments will not be accepted 1 week after the due date has passed unless you have an extension for a documented extenuating circumstance.

**Where do I submit my assignment?**
Submit your assignments on LEARN in the appropriate dropbox folder.

**What format should I use to submit my assignment?**
Your assignment must be submitted as a Microsoft Word doc. Please make sure all assignments are double-spaced, have 1” margins and in Times New Roman, font size 12.

Late Penalty

**What happens if my assignment is submitted late?**
All late assignments (that is, assignments submitted after 12:00 pm on their due date) will be penalized 5% a day (including weekends).

For example, if you submitted your assignment at 5 pm on the due date it will count as a late submission. If you received 16/20, a 5% penalty would mean that you will get 15/20 instead.

**Can I ask for an extension and have the late penalty waived?**
A waiver of this penalty will be considered only in the event of an officially documented extenuating circumstance (see extension policy).

Extension Policy

**When should I ask for an extension?**
If you know that you will not be able to submit your assignment before the due date please make sure to ask for an extension at least 48 hours in advance of the due date.

**What should my request for an extension entail?**
You must provide official documentation explaining the need for an extension. This must be an extenuating circumstance (serious personal illness, critical personal or family crisis etc.)

Verification of Illness Form: [www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html](http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html).

**When will I NOT receive an extension?**
Most requests for extensions and other accommodations are at the discretion of the instructor. However, you will NOT receive an extension for computer-related issues, so please save back-ups of your assignments.

University Regulations:

**Cross-listed course**
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course is taken under the Political Science rubric.

**Academic Integrity**
In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.
Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin: Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. If you chose not to have your assignment screened, the instructor will administer a 15-minute oral examination based on your paper. The oral exam must be scheduled 1 week before the due date of the assignment. If you choose not to use Turnitin, your assignment must be submitted to Dr. Mufti’s dropbox by 4:30 pm on the due date. See http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo for more information
Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

- Session 1, Sept 10: Introduction to the course
  Please read the course outline on LEARN

- Session 2, Sept 12: What is South Asia?
  Banerjee, Sandeep, Subho Basu, Stephen Christopher and Susan Snow Wadley. 2014. A Brief History of South Asia, in *South Asia in the World*, edited by Susan Wadley Snow, 22-34 and 45-64. New York: M.E. Sharpe

Discussion question: Why should I care about politics of South Asia?

Week 2: The Legacy of Colonialism

- Session 3, Sept 17: The “British Raj”

Discussion question: How did the British establish a colonial administration in India and what were the consequences?

- Session 4, Sept 19: The Triumph and Tragedy of Partition

Discussion question: What was ‘partition’ and how has it deeply impacted the politics, economy and society of the subcontinent?

Week 3: India Pakistan Relations

- Session 5, Sept 24: India and Pakistan's Historical Inheritance

Discussion question: What has been the enduring legacy of colonialism for India and Pakistan?

- Session 6, Sept 26: Accounting for an ‘Enduring Rivalry’

Discussion question: What explains the antagonism between India and Pakistan?

Week 4: Kashmir

- Session 7, Oct 1: Kashmir and Three Indo-Pak Wars!


Discussion question: What circumstances led to the creation of Kashmir as a disputed territory?

- Session 8, Oct 3: Pakistan’s proxy war and The Future of Kashmir

BBC website The Future of Kashmir @
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/south_asia/03/kashmir_future/html/default.stm
Discussion Question: Is there a plausible solution for ending the violence in Kashmir?

**Week 5:**
- Session 9, Oct 8: Thanksgiving Holiday! (make-up class on Dec 3)
- Session 10, Oct 10: Study Day! (make-up class on Oct 12)
  Ask me Anything!

**Week 6: India, Pakistan, and the United States**
- Session 11, Oct 15: India and United States, Estranged Democracies
  Discussion question: How has the US-India relationship evolved over time?
- Session 12, Oct 17: Pakistan and the United States, unequal allies
  Discussion question: Why is this long-standing alliance such a fractious one?

**Week 7: China, Pakistan, and India**
- Session 13, Oct 22: Sino-Indian Relations
  Discussion question: Why is it challenging for India and China to cooperate as the two great powers in the region?
- Session 14, Oct 24: Sino-Pak Relations in the context of Sino-Indian Relations
  Discussion question: Why does the deepening of relations between China and Pakistan likely to have significant consequences for the balance of power in the region?

**Week 8: The Smaller South Asian States**
- Session 15, Oct 29: Ask me Anything!
- Session 16 Oct 31: The land-locked politics of Nepal and India’s role in the Sri Lankan Civil War
  Swain, Ashok. 2018. “It is water and not China that has ruined Nepal’s relations with India”. *Outlook*, April 7
Discussion question: To what extent are leaders important in shaping foreign policy?

**Week 9: India as a regional hegemon**

- **Session 17, Nov 5:** India-Bangladesh relations

Discussion question: Why has the relationship between India and Bangladesh not been a benign one counter to expectations?

- **Session 18, Nov 7:** India as a Regional Hegemon
  Pant, Harsh V. 2009. "A Rising India’s Search for a Foreign Policy," *Orbis* 53(2): 250-264


Discussion question: Can India successfully aspire to regional hegemony?

**Week 10: Islam in the Sub-continent & the Rise of the Taliban**

- **Session 19, Nov 12:** The practice of Islam in South Asia

Discussion question: Why is the diversity in the practice of Islam across South Asia significant in understanding the current wave of religious extremism?

- **Session 20, Nov 14:** The rise of the Taliban and Al Qaeda

  Watch *My Trip to Al-Qaeda* by Alex Gibney (86 minutes) Borrow DVD from instructor.

Discussion question: What is the origin of the Taliban?

**Week 11: Afghanistan and the GWOT**

- **Session 21, Nov 19:** How and why does 9/11 happen?

Discussion question: Could the rise of the AL Qaeda be stymied?

- **Session 22, Nov 21:** How does a ‘good war’ go horribly bad?

Discussion question: What strategic errors did the United States make which led to a protracted war in Afghanistan?

**Week 12: Rebuilding Afghanistan**

- **Session 23, Nov 26:** Warlordism and the Drug Economy

Watch *The Hyena Road* by Paul Gross (2 hours)

Discussion question: What is the nexus between Afghan warlords, drugs and insecurity?

- Session 24, Nov 28: Rebuilding Afghan Political Institutions
- *Hell of a Nation* 

Discussion question: What are the challenges faced by Afghanistan in transitioning to Democracy?

**Week 13, December 3: The Challenge of Militancy in Pakistan**

- Session 25, Dec 3: What is FATA and who are the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan?

Discussion question: Why is the problem of religious extremism unmanageable in Pakistan?