

South Asian Politics

Mgr. Hrishabh Sandilya

Class Overview

One of the cradles of civilization, South Asia is finally coming into prominence across the world today. Geopolitically separate from the rest of Asia, the politics of the region have over the years have rapidly evolved and have exhibited the contrasting characteristics of democracy, monarchy, dictatorship over the years. Perhaps better described as a laboratory that demonstrates the effects of the ideals of different forms the political game, from despot dictators and crazy monarchs to most powerful women in the world, the region has seen it all.

The class will analyse and overview the major issues in government and politics in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal. The course of study has been divided country wise, in order to ensure continuity and clarity. For each country we will delve into the political culture and heritage, Government and Institutions, leaders and parties and finally policy issues and current perspectives, in order to understand best what characterises South Asian Politics. Highlights of our discussions will include the success of India's democracy, dictatorship in Pakistan, monarchy and communism in Nepal, ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and the ineffectiveness of Political rule in Bangladesh.

Teaching Methodology

A highly interactive class that requires participation as well as a keen interest in the subject in order to ensure that the requisite learning has been achieved. The class relies on a discussion of Required Readings and a number of viewpoints that the lecturer and students are able to introduce, in order to ensure a healthy resonance of thought.

Literature

1. A course folder that contains the Required Readings has been placed in the Library Reading Room, which you are required to read before each class, in order to keep abreast and participate actively. The Readings are clearly numbered, in accordance with the schedule.
2. Further, a number of Suggested Texts are available in my office, feel free to come by, and refer to them or make copies. The list of Suggested texts is attached.
3. It is in your own interest to keep abreast of what's going on in South Asia currently. There are a number of online resources, which you should look at to stay in touch. The list of resources is attached.

Evaluation

1. Class Participation, your thoughts matter in each class based on what you may have picked up from the Required Readings and Suggested Texts. This carries 10% of your grade.

2. A General Info Quiz that tests your awareness of the region's Current Politics. This carries 20% of your grade.
3. An Academic Paper of about 2000/3000 words on any Political or Economic Phenomenon in South Asia. Please refer to the Suggested Texts for Ideas. Your paper topic needs to be discussed with me, before you begin writing. This carries 40% of your grade.
4. A Final Subjective exam, which will test how much you have gained from the course. This carries 30% of your grade.

Schedule

1. Introduction + Class Information
2. India: Politics & Re-tracing History
3. India: Institutions, Processes & Policies
4. India: Parties, Leaders and Vote Banks
5. Paper Topics are due
6. India: Conflicts & the Future
7. Pakistan: Political Culture & Institutions
8. General Info Quiz
9. Pakistan: Parties, Leaders & Conflict
10. Pakistan: Policy Issues & The Future
11. Papers are due
12. Sri Lanka
13. Sri Lanka + Bangladesh
14. Bangladesh
15. Examination for those who leave before Christmas
16. Nepal + (Bhutan)
17. Examination for the rest

Cheating

Any use of unfair means or any sort of plagiarism (for a full definition and University guidelines on plagiarism please refer to the FSV website), will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating will be referred to the Faculty Disciplinary Committee and will be failed immediately.

Non Academic Activity

1. Pub Discussion Sessions
2. Weekly Bollywood Movies
3. Indian Food & A Diwali Party
4. Bollywood Film Festival and Party
5. Possible meetings with the Indian & Pakistani Ambassadors

Contact Details

Email: hrishabh@fsv.cuni.cz

Office: J 3010

Hours: Wednesday 16.00 – 17.00, otherwise by prior appointment

Suggested Texts (Available in my Office)

Class Reader - Malik, Kennedy, Oberst, Kapur, Lawoti & Rahman Government and Politics in South Asia, Sixth Edition (Westview Press, 2008)

Kohli, Atul, ed. The Success of India's Democracy, (Cambridge University Press, 2001)

Chapman, Graham P The Geopolitics of South Asia (Ashgate, 2000) Jinonice LIBRARY PL 3251

Keay, John India a History (Harper Collins, 2004)

Zamindar, Vazira Fazila-Yacoobali, The Long Partition and the Making of South Asia (Columbia University Press, 2007)

Bonner, Arthur Averting the Apocalypse (Duke University Press, 1990)

Resources

Heidelberg Papers in South Asian and Comparative Politics

<http://hpsacp.uni-hd.de/>

The Mint Online

<http://www.livemint.com>

India Uncut

<http://www.indiauncut.com/>

SARAI Columbia

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/southasia/cuvl/index.html>

UC Berkeley South Asia Library

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/SSEAL/SouthAsia/>