

Columbia University, Department of Political Science
Political Science GR4454x (2016): Political Systems of South Asia
Mondays & Wednesdays 10:10-11:25; 603 Hamilton Hall

Philip Oldenburg

Email: pko1@columbia.edu

Office hours: by arrangement (cell/home-office phone: 917-355-4649)

This course first compares the post-independence political histories of South Asian countries, particularly India and Pakistan. It then explores selected topics across countries: social and cultural dimensions of politics; structures of power; and political behavior. The underlying theme is to explain the development and durability of the particular political regimes – democratic or authoritarian – in each country.

Requirements and grading. There will be an exam, for all students, on October 14th consisting of IDs of important names, events, and issues (30% of the grade). Graduate students will write a short research paper (50% of the grade) and do the weekly “colloquium” reports (20% of the grade). In the second half of the course, for weeks seven through fourteen, each student, every week, will be assigned one or two readings on which to report (60% of the grade for undergraduate students). Those written reports (maximum length, 500 words) will provide a *brief* summary of the article/chapter, but will focus on *questions* that can be raised about methodology, conceptualization, and argument. Questions that compare the article with others we have read are particularly welcome. The six best grades of the seven will count toward the grade. All students will be expected to read articles/chapters additional to the ones they will report on; students should count on having to read an average of 100 pages per week (undergraduate students will need to attend and participate in a substantial portion of the 15 post-mid-term class sessions [10% of the grade]). There is no final examination.

Since one of the purposes of studying this region is to understand what is happening there today, I will assume that you are reading, **at a minimum**, South Asia related articles in the *New York Times* or other comparable news source, and at least one South Asian newspaper or magazine (most are available on-line). All classes will begin with me asking “what’s happening in South Asia?” and ten minutes or so of discussion on relevant events

The assigned reading is either **online** (mainly journal articles) or under “Files & Resources” (mainly book chapters) in CourseWorks [note that works have been uploaded to CourseWorks through Week 9, due to quota restrictions; they will be removed and the remaining works uploaded ca 24 October].. NB: to find a journal article, search the e-journal title in CLIO, pick one of the databases, and navigate to the article. I suggest that you download all the assigned reading, to compile a personalized textbook, as it were. The mid-term will require you to “identify and give the significance of” various important institutions, dates, concepts, and the like, all discussed or explained in the assigned reading. (I will hand out a study sheet from which those IDs will be chosen a week before the mid-term.) After the midterm, you will be asked to select reading on which to focus; hence, there is more reading on the syllabus than you will have to read. The bibliography of the syllabus, you will notice, has many more articles or chapters than are assigned; it will perhaps be a resource for you to explore topics of special interest. **Please note that I expect you to read to understand the broad issues, and *not* to learn and remember factual details or even analytical arguments; none of the readings are “canonical,” (and indeed many are chosen simply because they are the most recent on the topic).**

Additional resources. There are two “handbook” volumes [quasi encyclopedias] that have short essays by leading scholars: Brass (2010) on all the South Asia countries, which is an E-book; and

Jayal & Mehta (2010) on India, which has its Table of Contents online, and is available in Lehman's non-circulating collection. Current South Asian newspapers and magazines are available on the Web. Recommended newspapers include: *The Indian Express*, *The Hindu* (India); *Express Tribune*, *Dawn* (Pakistan); *Daily Star*, *Dhaka Tribune* (Bangladesh); *Ekantipur* (Nepal); *Colombo Telegraph*, *The Sunday Times* (Sri Lanka). The most important current-events journals to consult are: for India, *Economic and Political Weekly* ("EPW"); *Frontline*; *Seminar*; *Caravan*, *The Open Magazine*; for Pakistan, *Newsline*; *Herald*; for South Asia as a whole: *Himal Southasian*. A new journal, *Studies in Indian Politics*, has scholarly articles of a high order [disclosure: I am at present the co-book review editor]

The library's collection of South Asia material is managed by the Area Studies in Lehman Library; Gary Hausman is the South Asia librarian. There is a South Asia Reading Room in Butler, which has non-circulating reference books and significant works, especially in history, but also in political science. The South Asia Institute, which helps arrange most of the South Asia related events on campus, is located in Knox Hall. They maintain an email list for receiving notices of those events.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING (particularly important articles are bolded)

Week (of): Topic and readings.

1. Sept 7 Introduction to the course: why South Asia is significant today

Geographical & historical contexts

Farmer 1993: 5-25. *State of Democracy in South Asia Report*, chapters 1, 2

I: Political Histories & comparisons

2. Sept 12 Pakistan and the emergence of Bangladesh (1947-1977)

Oldenburg 1985; Shaikh 2009; van Schendel 2009: 172-182; explore the Pakistan press

3. Sept 19 India 1947-1977

Kapur 2005; **Mayer 1984**; Price 1989; explore the India press

4. Sept 26 Pakistan and India, 1977 to the present: entrenched authoritarian rule; deepening democracy;

Banerjee 2014; **Yadav 1999b**; Manor 2016; Zaidi 2005; Fair 2011b; Jaffrelot 2015: 338-371

5. Oct 3 Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka: roots of the recent past

Bangladesh:; **van Schendel 2009: 193-218**; ICG 2016a; *Nepal*: Hachhethu & Gellner 2010: 131-146; *Sri Lanka*: **DeVotta 2014**; Gunaratne 2014; ICG 2016b: 19-23; Uyangoda 2015; Stepan, Linz, Yadav 2011: 144-172

6. Oct 10 (continued) Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka

[Mid-term exam (October 12)]

II. Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia: Foundations and Challenges

- 7. Oct 17 Caste, class, ethnicity, and local structures of power (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh)**
- India*:: Auerbach 2016; Chauchard 2014; Banerjee 2010; Krishna 2003; Krishna 2009; **Manor 2010a**; Nilsen 2012 (in part:260-76); de Wit & Berner 2009 (skim 936-42); Piliavsky and Sbriccoli 2016; Witsoe 2012 (skim 312-21); *Pakistan*: Martin 2014; *Bangladesh*: Ruud. 2012.
- 8. Oct 24 Social movements and revolution (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal)**
- India*: Habibullah 2016; Harriss **2011a**; Jaoul 2009; *Pakistan*: Samad 2014; *Sri Lanka*: de Alwis in Jeffrey and Basu 1998: 185-201; *Nepal*: Lecompte-Touiline 2013: 212-257
- 9. Oct 31 "Communalism," gender, state structures, and civil society (India, Sri Lanka)**
- India*: **Ahmad 2009: 217-239**; Bedi 2016; Berenschot 2011; Corbridge et al. 2012;; Jauregui 2014; Mahajan 2013; Michelutti & Heath 2014; Patnaik 2014; Sahoo 2013; *Sri Lanka*: Heslop 2014
- 10. Nov 7 (NB Election-day holiday on Nov 7) (continued) "Communalism," gender, state structures, and civil society (South Asia, Pakistan, Bangladesh)**
- South Asia*: Basu 2009; Bhavnani 2009; *Pakistan*: **Jaffrelot 2014**; Marsden 2008; Iqtidar 2013; *Bangladesh*: Shehabuddin 2008
- 11. Nov 14 Political Economy of development (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,)**
- India*: Bussell 2012; Corbridge, Harriss, Jeffrey 2014: 121-139; Jeffrey & Young 2012, Kalaiyarasan A. 2014; Manor 2010b; Nooruddin 2011; P. Singh 2011; *Pakistan*: Zaidi 2014; *Sri Lanka*: Bandaralage 2009
- 12. Nov 21 Parties & Elections (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)**
- India*: Ahuja & Chhibber 2012; Banerjee 2011; **Björkman 2014**; Breeding 2011; Carswell & De Neve 2014; Chacko & Mayer 2014; Chhibber et al. 2014; Choi 2009; Heath 2015; Huber & Suryanarayanan 2016; Jaffrelot 2013b; **Jayal 2016**; Jensenius 2016; Manor 2015; Mitra 2013; Palshikar 2015a; Palshikar 2015b; Thachil 2014; Tillin 2015; Varshney 2014; Verma 2012; Verma et al. 2014; Yadav and Palshikar 2009a; Ziegfeld 2012; *Bangladesh*: Nizam Ahmed 2011, Anam 2014; *Pakistan*: Mohmand 2014; Zaidi 2013; *Sri Lanka*: **DeVotta 2016**
- 13. Nov 28 (continued) Parties & elections: preliminary assessment of the 2014 general election in India**
- 14. Dec 5 Are things falling apart? Violence, Corruption, Political decay -- or continuing resilience? (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka)**
- South Asia*: Mayer 2010; Piliavsky 2014; Staniland 2012; *India/Naxalites*: Kennedy 2014; *India/communalism*: Copland 2010; Govinda 2013; *India/crime & corruption*: Chatterjee & Roychoudhury 2013; Jauregui 2013; Khare 2013; Witsoe 2011b; *India/political decay*: Chandra and Umaira 2011; Hari Kumar 2015; Krishna 2011; Krishna & Schober 2014; Raghavan 2012; Ruparelia, 2015; *Bangladesh*: Fair et al. 2016; Jahan 2014a or Jahan 2014b; *Nepal*: Jha 2014: 323-

44; Schneiderman & Tillin 2015: 29-39; *Pakistan*: Ahmad 2016 – Chris Fair section [minus discussion of jihadis]; Cohen 2011: 47-69; Mustafa et al. 2013; Nelson 2014; Shaikh 2012; *Sri Lanka*: International Crisis Group 2015; *Bhutan*: Turner & Tshering 2014

15. Dec 12 By way of conclusions: Why are some countries of South Asia democracies and others not?

Oldenburg 2010; read up on recent developments in all the South Asian countries; be prepared to compare them to countries elsewhere that you know well

BIBLIOGRAPHY (includes works not assigned for class reading, but useful for papers or if you want to explore what a particular scholar has done in addition to the work assigned). Note that “online” means access either via the “e-journal” portal of CLIO, or direct access to a website.

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