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 a mid-term on October 14th and a final examination consisting of take-home essays (for undergraduates), or a research paper (for graduate students) (40% of the grade). The mid-term (30% of the grade) will test whether you have done the reading; after the mid-term, we will devise a way of ensuring class participation on the basis of doing the reading (30% of the grade) Graduate student papers must have as a cover sheet a paragraph summarizing its topic with my signature of approval on it, typically submitted for approval at the mid-term. There will be an average of around 100-125 pages of required reading per week, and I plan to do my best to encourage you to have the bulk of that reading done for the Monday class (even if my lecture on the previous week’s topic might not have been completed).

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. Assigned readings are in bold in the bibliography below. 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 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); Sri Lanka Guardian, The Island (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 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

Week (of): Topic and readings.

1. Sept 9 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 14 Pakistan and the emergence of Bangladesh (1947-1977)
   Oldenburg 1985; Shaikh 2009; van Schendel 2009: 172-182; explore the Pakistan press

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

4. Sept 28 Pakistan and India, 1977 to the present: entrenched authoritarian rule; deepening democracy;

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

6. Oct 12 (continued) Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka
   [Mid-term exam (October 14)]

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

7. Oct 19 Caste, class, ethnicity, and local structures of power (India, Bangladesh)
   India: Banerjee 2010; Krishna 2003; Krishna 2009; Manor 2010a; Nilsen 2012 (in part:260-76); de Wit & Berner 2009 (skim 936-42); Witsoe 2012 (skim 312-21); Pakistan: Martin 2014; Bangladesh: Ruud, 2012.
8. Oct 26  Social movements and revolution (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal)


| 9. Nov 4  (NB Election-day holiday on Nov 2) "Communalism," gender, state structures, and civil society (India, Sri Lanka)


10. Nov 9 (continued) “Communalism,” gender, state structures, and civil society (South Asia, Pakistan, Bangladesh)

South Asia: Basu 2009; Bhavnani 2009; Pakistan: Jaffrelot 2014; Marsden 2008; Toor 2007; Bangladesh: Shehabuddin 2008

11. Nov 16 Political Economy of development (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh)

India: Corbridge, Harriss, Jeffrey 2014: 121-139; Bussell 2012; Jeffrey & Young 2012, Kalaiyarasan A. 2014; Manor 2010b; Nooruddin 2011; P. Singh 2011; Pakistan: Zaidi 2014; Sri Lanka: Bandaralage 2009

12. Nov 23 Parties & Elections (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)


14. Dec 7 Are things falling apart? Violence, Corruption, Political decay -- or continuing resilience? (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka)


15. Dec 14 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.


Ahuja, Amit; and Pradeep Chhibber. 2012. “Why the Poor Vote in India: 'If I Don't Vote, I Am Dead to the State.’” Studies in Comparative International Development 47, 4: 389-410. Online

Ahuja, Pratul; and Rajat Ganguly. 2007. “The Fire Within: Naxalite Insurgency Violence in India.” Small Wars and Insurgencies 18, 2 (June): 249–274. Online


Corbridge, Stuart; and S. Kumar. 2002. “Community, Corruption, Landscape: Tales from the Tree Trade.” Political Geography 21, 6 (August): 765-788. Online


DeVotta, Neil. 2014. “Parties, political decay, and democratic regression in Sri Lanka.” *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics* 52, 1, 139-165. Online


Govinda, Radhika. 2013. “‘Didi, are you Hindu?’ Politics of Secularism in Women’s Activism in India: Case-study of a grassroots women’s organization in rural Uttar Pradesh.” Modern Asian Studies 47, 2 (March): 612-651. Online


Harriss, John. 2011a. “What is going on in the India’s ‘red corridor’? Questions about India’s Maoist insurgency – literature review.” Pacific Affairs 84, 2 (June): 309-327. Online


Jayal, Niraja Gopal; and Pratap Bhanu Mehta, editors. 2010. *The Oxford Companion to Indian Politics*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. Table of contents online; non-circulating copy in Lehman


Jeffrey, Craig; and Stephen Young. 2012 “Waiting for change: youth, caste and politics in India.” *Economy and Society* 41, 4: 638-661. Online


Mendelsohn, Oliver; and Marika Vicziany. 1998. The Untouchables: Subordination, Poverty and the State in Modern India. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.


**Mustafa, Daanish; Katherine E. Brown, Matthew Tillotson. 2013 “Antipode to Terror: Spaces of Performative Politics.” *Antipode* 45, 5: 1110–1127. Online**


**Nelson Matthew 2014. “Social, religious and political change in Pakistan.” Seminar 664: Decoding Pakistan (December). Online**


Radford, David P. 2003. “Fundamentalisms Compared: Maulana Maududi (Jama‘at-I-Islami) and M.S. Golwalker (Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh—RSS); What Relationship or
Interaction between Religion and the State do Maududi and Golwalker Envisage?”

Indian Social Science Review 5, 2 (July-December): 229-259. Online


Ruparelia, Sanjay. Forthcoming. “‘Minimum government, maximum governance’: the restructuring of power in Modi’s India.” South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies 38, 4. CourseWorks


State of Democracy in South Asia: A Report. 2006. See SDSA, Chapters 1 & 2 on CourseWorks


Turner, Mark; and Jit Tshering. 2014. “Is Democracy Being Consolidated in Bhutan?” Asian Politics & Policy, 6, 3: 413-431. Online


Verma, Rahul; and Jyoti Mishra, Shreyas Sardesai, Sanjay Kumar. 2014. “Return of the ‘National’ in Indian Elections: When do National-level Factors Play a Role in Influencing the Outcomes of the State Assembly Elections?” *Studies in Indian Politics* 2, 1: 81-97. Online

Walker, Rebecca. 2010. “Violence, the everyday and the question of the ordinary.” *Contemporary South Asia* 18, 1: 9–24. Online


