Course Description

South Asia is huge, growing fast, and remarkably interesting. This course examines the international relations of the region. It studies the foreign policies of the region’s states, conflict and cooperation among them, the involvement of outside powers, strategies for navigating the global economy, and a variety of other political phenomena that cross borders, from trade to insurgency. We can only scratch the surface of this topic: the quarter system forces difficult choices, so think of this as an appetizer rather than a full meal. Nevertheless, there is a heavy reading load to make the best use of our very limited time.

The first part of the course is an abbreviated introduction to the history and domestic politics of South Asia. This is essential for any serious understanding of the region, which is why I chose to include it while cutting some important “pure” foreign policy topics. The second part focuses intently on India and Pakistan’s security competition, wars, and crises. The third part broadens the scope, exploring both how external powers and smaller states have operated in the region. The fourth part explores other processes operating within and across the region’s borders, especially strategies of economic development and their relationship to the global economy. The overall goal is to provide a grounding in the key political dynamics in the subcontinent and how they affect international relations and foreign policy.

The syllabus is likely to experience some changes over the quarter: these will be communicated via the Canvas site.

Course Components

Undergraduate Students

Discussion section. Fahad will lead a mandatory discussion section. This will be worth 20% of your grade.

Analytical response paper. In week 7, I will assign a paper topic that asks you to grapple with a central question in the study of IR and South Asia. Drawing on the course readings, you will write a 7-9 page paper. This is not a research paper and should not require extra work beyond
using the readings, lectures, and your own analytical abilities. It will be due during week 9 and is worth 40% of your grade.

**Final exam.** There will be a final exam during finals week. It is intended to assess your knowledge of key information about the region and the theories and arguments we explored in the course. It is **not** intended to be outrageously difficult and I will provide a study guide to orient you. This will be worth 40% of your grade.

**If you will be graduating this quarter:** I will offer an **early** final exam on **Thursday June 6;** I will need to figure out logistical details but will let you know.

**Graduate Students**

**Discussion section.** Professor Staniland will lead a weekly, one-hour discussion section. The time is not subject to change. Students are expected to have carefully done all of the required reading and to be prepared to discuss it in detail. However, because this is a very short section compared to a full grad seminar, I will highlight 1-2 readings ahead of time for each week to pay particular attention to for our discussion. Participation will account for 20% of your grade.

**Analytical response paper.** In week 7, I will assign a paper topic that asks you to grapple with a central question in the study of IR and South Asia, that will due during week 8. Drawing on the course readings, you will write a 5-page paper. This is intended mainly as a “check-in” assignment to make sure that there are no red flags about writing skill or deep misunderstandings about the requirements of graduate work. This will count for 15% of your grade.

**Research paper** of no more than 30 pages total (doubled-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins) due at the end of the quarter. It can be emailed to me or dropped off at my office by 5 pm on Thursday, June 13. This paper should address a major question in the study of political science with a literature review, theoretical argument, and empirical evaluation of the theory relative to its competitors using cases and data from South Asia. Given that you are in spring quarter, you should already have a substantial exposure to theoretically relevant questions in political science. This empirical evaluation can include a case or comparative case studies, quantitative analysis, or a mix of methods. Students can use this opportunity to lay the groundwork for a publishable article, develop research for a thesis, or “try out” a possible dissertation topic. You must speak or email with me about your topic by the end of Week 7. The reason for requiring this paper is to force you to experience some of the transition from being a consumer and critic of research to becoming a producer who has to grapple with a different set of challenges. Please note that this is a hard space limit: the entire paper must not be more than 30 pages. I will reduce your grade for excess. This paper will count for 65% of your grade.

**If you will be graduating this quarter:** this paper will be due by 5 pm on Thursday, June 6.

**Resources**

It can be challenging to get up to speed on such a broad range of issues, many of which will be new to you. The importance of English in South Asia makes the region much more accessible
from afar than some other regions. I encourage you to start keeping track of the news and immersing yourself in daily coverage of the big issues of the day. This is of course entirely optional. Below are a few starting points that can be useful; they only scratch the surface. If you have particular interests, come chat to me about more specific resources.

**Twitter.** Twitter is stunningly useful as a way to keep up with the region, so it is not just a massive waste of everyone’s time (though it is, to be clear, also very much that). My twitter handle is @pstanpolitics. There are numerous great people to follow for insights; I will circulate a short starting list of suggestions.


**Podcasts.** Three Things, Book Adda, Tea Leaves, Seen and Unseen, National Security Conversations with Happymon Jacob, Pragati, How to Pakistan, Grand Tamasha.

**TV channels.** A number of English-language Indian news channels offer streaming and/or video clips online. These are often a hot mess of screaming panelists and over-the-top headlines, but as long as you know what you’re getting into they can be useful; among others, see CNN-News18, NDTV 24X7, Doordarshan News, India Today, Times Now. Speakers of Hindi, Urdu, Bangla, and other languages have a huge variety of options.

**South Asia at the University of Chicago.** The Regenstein is a treasure trove, and Laura Ring and Jim Nye are exceptional South Asia librarians. For future exploration, I strongly encourage you to become familiar with the extraordinary language and civilizations course offerings in SALC, the study abroad program in Pune, and the university’s Delhi Center.

**Electronic Etiquette**

I have traditionally banned laptops in class because of my experience and those of other students – students using laptops, phones, etc. for non-class purposes can be hugely distracting to those around them. I am going to allow it, however, this year, since I talk way too fast and have learned more about the ways that laptops can help students. I expect that you will be responsible and focused in your use of classroom electronics; I reserve the right to modify this policy if I end up staring at a sea of distracted internet surfers. I also urge you to try out laptop-free note-taking, which many students in the past have told me turned out to be far more helpful than they expected. If this change proves to be a mistake, please let me know in the course evaluations. Fahad has the discretion to determine these guidelines in his sections.

We aim to be responsive to email from students. However, please do not expect an answer to your question any sooner than 48 hours after it is sent (unless you are facing a medical situation or family/personal issue, in which case we will certainly respond as soon as possible). Avoidable last-minute email questions and requests are bad for everyone involved. All correspondence should be appropriately professional.

**Academic Integrity**

This is the University of Chicago’s Academic Integrity statement:

“It is contrary to justice, to academic integrity, and to the spirit of intellectual inquiry to submit the statements or ideas of work of others as one's own. To do so is plagiarism or cheating.
offenses punishable under the University's disciplinary system. Because these offenses undercut the distinctive moral and intellectual character of the University, we take them very seriously. Proper acknowledgment of another's ideas, whether by direct quotation or paraphrase, is expected. In particular, if any written or electronic source is consulted and material is used from that source, directly or indirectly, the source should be identified by author, title, and page number, or by website and date accessed. Any doubts about what constitutes "use" should be addressed to the instructor.

If you have questions, ask me or your TA, and consult Charles Lipson’s *Doing Honest Work in College* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008). Any violations will be automatically passed on to the relevant College authorities.

**Books**

We will be extensively relying on these two books. They will not be available on e-reserve due to copyright restrictions. They can be purchased at the Seminary Co-op, as well as online. Both are extremely valuable resources beyond this class.


**Course Schedule and Readings**

Readings with an asterisk (*) can be found through the University of Chicago Library Canvas e-reserves. Readings marked with (Canvas) can be found in the course’s Canvas site. You can find journal articles through the Library website, and the hyperlinked articles should take you directly to the piece. If you are having trouble finding a reading, contact us as soon as possible: this is the first time this class is being taught, so there will definitely be some growing pains.

**Week 1**

1A. April 2. *Who cares?*


Part I: Politics of South Asia

1B. April 4. Colonialism and Independence

Jaffrelot, Pakistan Paradox, chapters 1-2.
Muhammad Ali Jinnah, “Presidential Address to Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, August 11, 1947.”

Week 2

2A. April 9. Indian Politics


2B. April 11. Pakistani Politics

Tudor, The Promise of Power, chapter 5.*

Week 3

3A. April 16. Sons of the Soil: Burma and Sri Lanka


3B. April 18. Between Crisis and Continuity: Bangladesh and Nepal


Part II: India-Pakistan Relations

Week 4

4A. April 23. Indian Foreign Security Policy: Context and Trajectory


4B. April 25. Pakistani Foreign Security Policy: Context and Trajectory


Week 5

5A. April 30. *India-Pakistan I: 1947-1972*


5B. May 2. *India and Pakistan II: The Nuclear Dimension, 1972-2019*


Part III: Beyond India-Pakistan Competition

Week 6

6A. May 7. *South Asia in the World I: China, the US, and the Cold War*

Miller, Manjari Chatterjee. 2013. *Wronged by Empire: Post-Imperial Ideology and Foreign*
Raghavan, Fierce Enigmas, chapters 6-7.

6B. May 9. South Asia in the World II: South Asia and Great Power Politics since 1990

Raghavan, Fierce Enigmas, chapters 9-10.

Week 7

7A. May 14. Afghanistan: Fulcrum of Intervention

Raghavan, Fierce Enigmas, chapter 8.

Undergraduate and Graduate Papers Topics Handed Out

7B. May 16. Navigating India’s Shadow: Sri Lanka and Internationalized Conflict

Muni, S. D. 1993. Pangs of Proximity: India and Sri Lanka’s Ethnic Crisis. Oslo, Norway: PRIO. Chapters 2 (31-49) and 4 (90-123).*

**Week 8**


Koh, Collin. 2018. “How Myanmar is benefiting from the China-India rivalry.” *South China Morning Post.*

**Graduate Student Papers Due**

**Part IV. Sub- and Trans-national Politics**

**8B. May 23. Insurgencies and Insurrections**


**Week 9**

**9A. May 28. “Punjabi Exceptionalism” and South Asia’s Divergent Trajectories (Fahad)**


Undergraduate Papers Due

9B. May 30. Economic Strategies from Independence to Crisis

Naseemullah, Adnan. 2016. Development after Statism: Industrial Firms & the Political Economy of South Asia. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3 (64-95) and 7 (205-229).*

Week 10

10A. June 4. Liberalization and its Limits


10B. June 6. NO CLASS: READING PERIOD

Graduating undergraduates take early final (place/time TBA)
Research paper due for graduating graduate students