

Comparative Politics of South Asia
Undergraduate
Kanchan Chandra

Description

This course is an introduction to the comparative politics of South Asia -- India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Burma, Bhutan and Nepal.

Requirements

- 1) *Class Participation (20% of the grade)*: The grade on class participation will depend on regular attendance and contribution to the discussion in both class and section.
- 2) *Two 5-7 page papers (20% each)*
- 3) *Final Exam (40%) of the grade*: The final exam (closed book) will include both ID and essay questions.

Readings

For purchase: Robert L. Hardgrave and Stanley A. Kochanek, *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation* (Forth Worth: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1999).

Week One

Overview of the Course

The Origins Of South Asian States: Colonialism, Partition and Secession

No Assigned Reading

Part I: INDIA

Guidelines for Reading:

Almost each week, you are required to read a portion of Hardgrave and Kochanek. This book is primarily descriptive. In addition, you are also required to read articles or book chapters drawn from other sources each week. These additional readings are generally interpretive. They assume the basic background information provided in Hardgrave and Kochanek. You should always read Hardgrave and Kochanek first, and use it as a reference while reading other work.

Week Two: Colonial Legacies

Ayesha Jalal, *Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia: A Comparative and Historical Perspective*. Cambridge University Press, 1995, Chapter 1, pp. 9-28.

Ashis Nandy, "The Uncolonized Mind: A Post-Colonial View of India and the West." In *The Intimate Enemy*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1983, pp. ix-xx, 64-113.

Week Three: The State

Hardgrave and Kochanek, Chapters 3 and part of 4 (pp. 60-142).

Chandra, Kanchan. "India as a Patronage Democracy." In *Why Ethnic Parties Succeed: Patronage and Ethnic Headcounts in India*.

Week Four: Social Structure

Hardgrave and Kochanek, 13-25.

Andre Beteille, "Caste in a South Indian Village." P. 146-162, in Dipankar Gupta. ed., *Social Stratification*, OUP, 1991

Paul Brass, "Language Problems" in *The Politics of India Since Independence*. Cambridge University Press, 1990, Chapter 5, 151-191.

Kenneth W. Jones, "Religious Identity and the Indian Census" in N. Gerald Barrier, ed., *The Census in British India*. New Delhi : Manohar, 1981. Pp. 72-101.

Week Five: Parties

Hardgrave and Kochanek, Chapter 6.

Chandra, Kanchan. "Post-Congress Politics in Uttar Pradesh: The Ethnification of the Party System and its Consequences." in *Indian Politics and the 1998 Election: Regionalism, Hindutva and State Politics*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1999.

Week Six: Economy

Hardgrave and Kochanek, Chapter 8

Jagdish Bhagwati, *India in Transition: Freeing the Economy* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993), pp. 5-57.

Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, *India's Economic Development and Social Opportunity* (Oxford: OUP, 1995), pp. 27-56.

Week Seven: Conflict

Ashutosh Varshney, *Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002), Chs 1, 4, 9, 10.

Sumit Ganguly, "Explaining the Kashmir Insurgency – Political Mobilization and Institutional Decay," *International Security* 21: (2) Fall 1996, 76-107.

Week Eight: No Class: Spring Break

Part II

Guidelines for Reading:

This part of the course covers a country a week. The volume of the reading for each week is correspondingly larger. I do not expect you to read all pages closely. Instead, skim the reading to identify those parts essential to understanding the history and politics of each country and read these parts carefully. I will pass out reading questions to help you make your way through this reading.

Week Nine: Pakistan

Noman, Omar. *Pakistan: Political and Economic History Since 1947*. London: Kegan Paul, 1988, 57-223

Week 10: Bangladesh

Craig Baxter, *Bangladesh*. Boulder CO: Westview Press, 1997, Chapters 8-10, pp. 83-144.

Week 11: Sri Lanka

Stanley Tambiah, *Ethnic Fratricide and the Dismantling of Democracy*.

Week 12: Burma

Shelby Tucker, *Burma: The Curse of Independence*. London: Pluto Press, 2001.

For Recitation: Aung San Suu Kyi, *Freedom From Fear*. Pp. 192-198.

Week 13: Nepal

Ramjee P. Paruljee, *Democratic Transition in Nepal*. (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2000). Pp. 3-132; 271-313

(Second Paper Due on or before class)

Week 14: A Nuclear South Asia

Scott Sagan, "The Perils of Proliferation in South Asia," *Asian Survey*, November/December 2001.

Howard Shaffer, "Foreign Relations," Oldenburg and Bouton, ed., *India Briefing: A Transformative Fifty Years* (M. E. Sharpe, 1998), 121-168.

Samina Ahmad, *Pakistan and the Bomb: Public Opinion and Nuclear Options*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1998, Chapter 3, pp. 47-68.

Week Fifteen:

Summing Up: Describing and Explaining Variation in the Survival and Performance of Democratic Regimes Across South Asia.

Ayesha Jalal, *Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia*. Cambridge University Press, 1995. Chapters 4-7.