Course Description
The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the region of South Asia and particularly to conflict and cooperation in a dynamic and volatile region which contains two of the world’s nuclear states (India and Pakistan) and a rising power (India), and where some of the world’s most important conflicts (Kashmir, Afghanistan, Tibetan plateau) are taking place. Topics include the countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and the goal is to acquaint you with inter-country relations, great power interventions, power distributions, norms (beliefs+ideas), political, military and economic conflict and cooperation. We will analyze alternate explanations for these issues that will range from historical legacies to security interests to domestic, political and economic factors and attempt to understand what factor or combination of factors drives these issues. The course utilizes lectures both by the professor and distinguished guests, movies and class discussions to convey important concepts about South Asia and its place in international relations.

NB: No background in South Asia or IR theory is necessary to take this course.

Requirements
Students will be graded on a short paper (5-7 pages, 12 size font, double spaced), an in-class mid-term exam, a final exam and in-class discussion. The short paper, in hard copy and turned in at the beginning of class (Tuesday, 11/29), will be EITHER a movie review of any ONE of TWO movies that are required viewing (please see below for movie viewing policies), OR a review of a book of short stories that is required reading. The paper should discuss how the movie/book relates to or illustrates specific concepts in the course. The grade distribution is as follows:

Midterm Exam 30%
Paper 30%
Final Exam 30%
Participation 10%

We will have three distinguished guest lecturers visit the class. Please read the syllabus as well class policies to get details.

**Class Policies**

- All class members are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. The College of Arts and Sciences “Academic Conduct Code” provides the standards and procedures: [http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/](http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/)
- Punctual attendance is required. Reasons for non-attendance should be notified to the instructor. Absence from class without informing the instructor well in advance will severely affect your final grade.
- Extensions will not be granted for the paper. Failure to turn it in on time, will result in the docking of half a grade (A- to B+, B+ to B and so on) per day that it is late.
- Cell phones should be turned off in class. Anyone texting or receiving calls in class will be asked to leave.
- Laptops are permitted in class. Surfing the net, however, is not. If you bring a laptop, please sit towards the front of the class.
- As you can see from the syllabus, we will have three distinguished guest lecturers visit the class to share their expertise. As with all the other lectures, you are required to attend these. Attendance will be taken for those particular days.

NB: This class meets on TuTh (with the exception of BU Calendar holidays). Lectures will be followed by in-class discussion.

**Movie and Book Review Policy**

Two movies (*Gandhi*, *Roja*) are required viewing for this class. One DVD copy of *Gandhi* and one DVD copy of *Roja* will be on reserve in Mugar library to be checked out for not more than four hours. Both the movies are also available on Netflix if you or a friend has a subscription. Additionally, *Roja* is also freely available on YouTube. *The Wandering*
*Falcon* by Jamil Ahmed is available for purchase from Barnes and Noble and on reserve at Mugar. You are expected to watch each movie and read the book before the date indicated in the syllabus. There will be a class discussion which will bring together each movie/book as well as concepts in the course on the indicated dates. The movie review paper is due, *without exception*, on Tuesday 11/29.

**Readings**
The books below are available for purchase from the Barnes and Noble, and are also on reserve at Mugar.


Everything else is available from library course reserves (the password is ir372), the course website or URLs provided in the syllabus.

### 1. Background

**Introduction and Organization (01/17)**

*Why is South Asia important? How does it fit into global politics?*


**The Region of South Asia: Regional Subsystems (01/22)**

*We will explore what it means to think of South Asia as a region. What are the tensions inherent in regional systems? How do we include or exclude countries in regional subsets? Is Afghanistan a South Asian country?*


**International Relations Theories and South Asia (01/24)**
Are theories of international relations important? Can they be used to systematically analyze trends in world politics or specific foreign policy decisions? How can we use them to understand security issues, conflict and cooperation in South Asia?

**The Historical Formation of Modern South Asia**
This set of lectures will trace the historical events that resulted in the borders of modern South Asia that we see in maps today. Borders in South Asia have been a source of war, conflict and suffering and it is important to understand the history behind them. It will also explore empire and the political and military consequences of empire in South Asia.

**Colonialism, Islam and the Creation of Modern India and Pakistan (01/29, 01/31)**

**Film, Gandhi, Director: Richard Attenborough, 1982 (02/05)**

**The Creation of Bangladesh (02/07)**
2. The Cold War in South Asia

**Historical Legacies, Ideas and Beliefs**
How have history and ideology affected foreign policy and the international outlook of South Asian countries after decolonization? Can individuals and beliefs of individuals shape the international strategy of countries? For decades, the Bandung Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement defined the role South Asian countries played in international society. Why?

**Decolonization and Joining Global Society (02/14)**
Selected Documents from the Bandung Conference 1955, Speeches by India, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

**The Non-Aligned Movement (02/19)**
Interests, Power and Security
Rather than history, beliefs and ideology, was the search for security and material interests, in fact, the driving factor behind the power distributions that existed in South Asia during the Cold War? After all, Afghanistan was a proxy battleground for two superpowers and some South Asian countries joined security blocs.

Great Power Politics and Conflict (02/21)
K. Waltz, Theory of International Politics, Addison-Wesley, 1979, pp. 102-128.

Cold War Blocs (02/26)

02/28: Pre-Midterm in-class discussion
03/05: In-class Midterm Exam

4. Post-Cold War

The Nuclear Race in South Asia (03/07)
In 1998, India and Pakistan shocked the world by testing nuclear weapons and declaring nuclear power status. The injection of nuclear weapons into an already fraught relationship alarmed the world and changed the dynamic of how these two countries were to operate and be treated in international relations.
Spring Break
Bilateral Conflicts

South Asia has some of the world’s most important and unresolved bilateral conflicts. Kashmir has been the source of three wars between India and Pakistan. The creation of Bangladesh was the outcome of civil war between East and West Pakistan and subsequent intervention by India. Afghanistan has been crucial to Pakistan’s foreign policy but this relationship is a very conflictual one. This set of lectures will explore these conflicts and explanations for them.

Kashmir (03/19, 03/21)

Film, Roja, Director: Mani Ratnam (03/26).

Pakistan and Afghanistan: An uneasy relationship (03/28)
The rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan was a seminal event whose international significance was to become amply clear only after 9/11.

**04/02: Guest Lecture 2: Bilal Malik, Harvard Graduate School of Education.**

*India, Pakistan and the Tensions of Bangladesh (04/04)*


**04/09: Guest Lecture 3: Sarah Shehabuddin, Assistant Professor, Asian University for Women, Bangladesh**

**04/11: In-class Discussion of Paper**

5. The Changing Face of South Asia

**Post 9/11 South Asia**

**The Rise of India (04/16, 04/23)**

The emergence of India as a rising power has important implications beyond South Asia. What does this mean for India on the world stage and how have the US and China adapted to India’s changed role? Closer home, India has always been regarded as a somewhat intrusive and annoying presence—how are South Asian countries now adapting to India’s rise?


04/23: Papers due in class, no exceptions.

Cooperation in South Asia (04/25)

Is South Asia just a region of conflict or have there been areas of cooperation? Where, why and how?


Final exam in-class discussion (04/30)