International Relations of South Asia (IR 372/PO 355)

Spring 2017

(Draft: subject to minor revisions)

Prof. Manjari Chatterjee Miller  Time: TuTh 9:30am-10:45am

Office Hours: W 10:30am-12pm; Th 11am-12:30pm
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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 tak-
ing 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. The course utilizes lectures both by the professor and distinguished guests,
movies, novels and class discussions to convey important concepts about South Asia and
its place in international politics and stability.

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

Requirements
Students will be graded on three 1-page response papers and in-class discussion, three ID
quizzes, one 5-page review paper, and a one final response paper.
The grade distribution is as follows:
1-page response papers: 30%
In-class discussion: 15%
ID Quizzes: 15%
Review Paper: 20%
Final response paper: 20%
1-Page Response Paper and Discussion
Response papers are 1 page, double spaced, 12 size font, 1” margins. Each response paper will include one quotation from the previous weeks’ readings (noting author and page number), a brief comment on why the quotation you chose raises an important issue or is interesting, and one analytical question that you think it raises. Response papers are due during at the beginning of discussion classes indicated in the syllabus.

ID Quiz
For ID quizzes you will be sorted into teams in advance. You and your partner need to pick an ID from the list you will be given in advance, and you will illustrate for the class 5 separate concepts about the ID in whatever manner best plays to your strengths. You can use a PPT, video, photos, primary documents and parallel events, dance, act it out or read out an essay. Each team will have no more than 5 minutes to present. The class will anonymously vote for a team winner on the most innovative and clear ID presentation. Note: winning the class competition is not correlated with the grade assigned by the instructor.

Review paper
The review paper, due IN CLASS on 04/26, will be EITHER a movie review OR a book review. The paper (no more than 5 pages, double spaced, 12 size font, 1” margins) should discuss how the movie/book relates to or illustrates specific concepts in the course. The two movies for the course are *Gandhi* (Director: Richard Attenborough, 1982) and *Osama* (Director: Siddiq Barmak, 2003). The novel is a collection of short stories, *The Wandering Falcon* by Pakistani writer Jamil Ahmad.

Final response paper
The take home final response paper will be the response to any ONE of two questions handed out. The final response paper is due 05/05 by 5pm.

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/cas/code/
• Punctual attendance is required. Reasons for non-attendance should be notified to the instructor. More than two absences or two late arrivals without informing the instructor well in advance will severely affect your final grade.
• Extensions will not be granted for any papers or take home exams. Failure to turn an assignment 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. Please be responsible with your laptop or you will be asked to leave the class.
• Attendance at guest lectures is required. The instructor needs to be informed a week in advance about non-attendance at a guest lecture.

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

**Movies and Book Review Policy**
The movies and books are required reading/viewing. The DVDs of the movies will be on reserve at Mugar for you to watch on your own time. Alternatively, you can attend screenings of the movies on the dates/times indicated in the syllabus (note, there will be no class on the days of the movie screenings). *The Wandering Falcon* by Jamil Ahmed is available for purchase from Barnes and Noble and on reserve at Mugar. We will discuss each movie and book in class.

**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 BU library ereserves, the course website or URLs provided in the syllabus.
1. Background

Introduction and Organization (01/19)
*Why is South Asia important? How does it fit into global politics?*

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 and South Asia (01/24, 01/26)

The Creation of Modern India and Pakistan (01/31)

The Creation of Bangladesh (02/02)

The Country in Between: Afghanistan (02/07)
**Discussion Class (ID Quiz 1, Response Paper 1 due) 02/09**

**International Relations Theories and South Asia (02/14)**  
*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?*


*United States Congress, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Hearing before the Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, House of Representatives, “Political crisis in South Asia: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal,” 110th Congress, 1st Session, August 1, 2007*, pp. 1-41.

**Guest Lecture: Dhruva Jaishankar, Fellow, Brookings India 02/16**  
**Showing of Gandhi 02/23, Place/Time TBD**

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 (02/28)**  


*Selected Documents from the Bandung Conference 1955, Speeches by India, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.*
The Non-Aligned Movement (03/02)

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, the Cold War and Conflict (03/14)
K. Waltz, Theory of International Politics, Addison-Wesley, 1979, pp. 102-128.

Discussion class (ID Quiz 2, Response Paper 2 due) (03/16)
The Wandering Falcon and Writing Reviews (3/21)

4. Post-Cold War

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 (03/23, 03/28)

Pakistan and Afghanistan: An uneasy relationship (03/30)
The rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan was a seminal event whose international significance was to become amply clear only after 9/11.

India, Pakistan and the Tensions of Bangladesh (04/04)
5. The Changing Face of South Asia

The Nuclear Race in South Asia (04/06)
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.


The Rise of India (04/11, 04/13)
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?

Manjari Chatterjee Miller, “India’s Feeble Foreign Policy,” *Foreign Affairs* 92, 2013, pp. 14-19.

**Showing of Osama 04/18, Place/Time TBD**

**Discussion Class (ID Quiz 3, Response Paper 3 due) 04/20**

**Cooperation in South Asia (Review Paper due) 04/25**

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


**Final response paper in-class discussion 04/27**

**Final response paper due 05/05.**