Pardee School of Global Studies

The United States in South Asia since 1947
IR 377
Prof. Jayita Sarkar

Course description
This course examines the United States’ role in South Asia since the end of the British empire in 1947. Students will explore U.S. policies towards the South Asian subcontinent during various phases of the Cold War, including, U.S. policy towards nonalignment and anti-communist movements, the different interstate wars in the region, nuclear weapons programs of India and Pakistan, the Afghanistan war, and the legacy of the Cold War today. The course is designed around weekly readings. Students are expected to come to class fully prepared with the readings of the week, and engage in active discussions. Each session will begin with a brief introductory lecture, which will be followed by a structured discussion in which the students will critical analyze the assigned readings.

NB: No background in South Asia or Cold War history is necessary to take this course.

Required Readings

Assignments and Evaluation

**Term Paper (40%):** Students will write a research paper on any topic relevant to U.S. policy in South Asia during the Cold War. This paper is expected to be approximately 5000 words in length including footnotes, and will account for 40% of the total grade. Students will be responsible for submitting a one-page memo outlining their research question, primary and secondary sources, methodology, and expected findings during the fifth week of the course. The final research paper is due one week after the last session. Students are expected to consult primary sources for their research papers such as volumes on *Foreign Relations of the United States* (FRUS), Wilson Center Digital Archive, Digital National Security Archive and CIA Records Search Tool (CREST).

**Two Commentaries (40%=20+20):** Each student will write two analytical commentaries on the one or more assigned readings for two separate sessions. Each of these commentaries is expected to be under 1,200 words including footnotes. Each student will then present the commentary for no longer than 10 minutes, which will be followed by a 5-minute Q&A. Each commentary with class presentation and Q&A
United States in South Asia since 1947

will be worth 20% of the total grade. Together the two commentaries will be worth 40% of the total grade. A sign-up sheet will be circulated during the first two weeks of the class for students to choose their readings and corresponding dates of presentations.

**Class Participation (20%)**: Active class participation based on critical analysis of the assigned readings and engagement in classroom discussions will account for 20% of the total grade.

**Learning Outcomes**
Students will develop a well-grounded understanding of the U.S. role in South Asia during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. No prior knowledge of the region or U.S. foreign policy is expected. This is an interdisciplinary course which will immerse students in both Cold War history and contemporary foreign policy and security issues in the region.

**Academic Conduct Code**
The members of this class will follow the “Academic Conduct Code” of Boston University. This Code contains the dos and don’ts to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity, and can be accessed by following the link: https://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/

**Course Schedule**

**Sep. 6, 8: Introduction: US Grand Strategy in Cold War South Asia**

**PART I: THE EARLY COLD WAR CONTEXT**

**Sep. 11, 13, 15: The United States in British Post-Colonial Space**

Sep. 18, 20, 22: Between Red China and Nonaligned India

PART II: THE MIDDLE COLD WAR

Sep. 25, 27, 29: The Kennedy Administration

Oct. 2, 4, 6: The Johnson Administration: India

IMP: One-page memos are due on Oct. 6 describing the term paper topic.

Oct. 10, 11, 13: The Johnson Administration: Pakistan
PART III: THE SUPERPOWER DÉTENTE

Oct. 16, 18, 20: Genocide, War and Refugee Crisis

PART IV: THE NEW COLD WAR

Nov. 6, 8, 10: The Soviets in Afghanistan
Sarkar, J.
United States in South Asia since 1947


Nov. 13, 15, 17: The Reagan Administration

PART V: THE END OF THE COLD WAR

Nov. 20, 22, 24: A Strategic Backwater?
- Guest Lecture by Dr. Joshua White, Associate Professor of Practice at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University

Nov. 27, 29, Dec. 1: Nuclear Deterrence in South Asia

Dec. 4, 6, 8: Post-9/11 Southern Asia
Sarkar, J.

All term papers are due on Dec. 11, 2017.