The United States in South Asia since 1947 (IR 377)
Fall 2017  Mon-Wed-Fri / 1:25-2:15 pm  CAS 204B

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Please get an appointment here: https://jsarkar.youcanbook.me

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 in the South Asian subcontinent during various phases of the Cold War, including, U.S. policy vis-à-vis Indian nonalignment and alliance with Pakistan, various interstate wars, nuclear weapons programs of India and Pakistan, the Afghanistan war, and U.S. presence in the region after 9/11. 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 an introductory lecture by the professor. This will be followed by a structured discussion involving the students based on critical analysis of the assigned readings. No background in South Asia or Cold War history is necessary to take this course.

Required Readings

NB: The above-mentioned textbooks are available at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Kenmore Square. Please purchase them by Week 2. In addition to the textbooks, there will be some required weekly readings, made available through Blackboard. Please note that students are not required to come prepared with items mentioned under ‘additional readings’.

Assignments and Evaluation
A. Term Paper (40%): Students will write a research paper on any topic relevant to U.S. policy in South Asia during the Cold War or after using primary and secondary sources. This paper is expected to between 4,000-4,500 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 the puzzle, research question(s), bibliography comprising of secondary sources, relevant primary sources, methodology, expected findings, and policy relevance during Week 5 of the course. The final research paper is due one week after the last class [by 11 December 2017].
B. Analytical Commentary (30%): Each student will write one analytical commentary on two or more assigned readings of a particular week. Each commentary is expected to be between 1000-1,200 including footnotes. Each student will then present the commentary for 7-10 minutes in class, which will be followed by a 5-minute Q&A. Each commentary with class presentation and Q&A will be worth 30% of the total grade. A sign-up sheet will be circulated during Week 2 for students to choose their readings and corresponding dates of presentations.

C. Simulation Exercise (15%): Students will be divided into separate teams for a simulation exercise on the 1971 war in South Asia. This simulation will be based on primary source documents on three or less pivotal moments prior to and during the conflict. More information will be made available within the first month of the course, and the simulation will be conducted during Week 7.

D. Class Attendance & Participation (15%): Regular attendance in class is mandatory. Attendance and regularly active class participation based on critical analysis of the assigned readings will account for 15% of the total grade.

Learning Outcomes
Using a range of high-quality primary sources from multiple countries, students will learn to evaluate theoretical and empirical claims about the role of the United States in post-1947 South Asia. 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 Code of Conduct
Plagiarism is a serious offence, and will not be tolerated. The members of this class will follow the “Academic Code of Conduct” of Boston University, accessible here: https://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/

Grades
Explanation of grades and GPA at Boston University can be found by following this link: https://www.bu.edu/reg/academics/grades-gpa/

Classroom Rules
✓ Students are expected to be punctual in class. Late arrivals will affect class participation grade.

✓ The use of laptops and tablets is to be kept at a bare minimum in class.

✓ The use of cellphones is not permissible in class, except for genuine accessibility requirements (documented proof needed).
It is important to be respectful, logical and evidence-based in class discussions. 
On argumentation, see: http://www.csun.edu/~hcpas003/argument.html
On logical fallacies, see: http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/fallacies/

I will respond to emails within 24 hours of receiving them, except on weekends. So, clarifications related to Monday sessions must be sought during the previous week, and not over the weekend.

Grades will be available within 48 hours of the completed assignment. If you are dissatisfied with your grade, please wait 48 hours from receiving your grade, and then come and see me.

**Recommended Digitized Primary Sources**
- Foreign Relations of the United States volumes (FRUS): https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments
- Digital National Security Archive: http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/publications/dnsa.html
- Wilson Center Digital Archive: http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org
- Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru (Second Series, Vol. 4 onwards): http://nehruportal.nic.in/writings?page=1
- Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland (DODIS): https://www.dodis.ch/en

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1. Sep. 6, 8** — Introduction: U.S. Grand Strategy in Cold War South Asia


Additional readings:
PART I: THE EARLY COLD WAR

WEEK 2.  Sep. 11, 13, 15—The United States in British Post-Colonial Space

The Professor will circulate a sign-up sheet for analytical commentaries.


Additional readings:

WEEK 3.  Sep. 18, 20, 22—Between Red China and Nonaligned India


Additional readings:

PART II: THE MIDDLE COLD WAR

WEEK 4. Sep. 25, 27, 29—The Kennedy Administration

- Discussion on available resources at the JFK Presidential Library, Boston, MA
Additional reading:

**WEEK 5. Oct. 2, 4, 6—The Johnson Administration: India**

One-page memos are due by Oct. 6 before midnight.


Additional readings:

**WEEK 6. Oct. 10, 11, 13—The Johnson Administration: Pakistan**


**PART III: THE SUPERPOWER DÉTENTE**

**WEEK 7. Oct. 16, 18, 20—Genocide, War and Refugee Crisis Simulation on the 1971 War (involves additional documents)**


Additional readings & resources:


**WEEK 8. Oct. 23, 25, 27—Indian Nuclear Explosion and its Aftermath**

Additional readings:


**WEEK 9. Oct. 30, Nov. 1, Nov. 3—The Carter Administration**
PART IV: THE NEW COLD WAR

WEEK 10. Nov. 6, 8, 10—The Soviets in Afghanistan


Additional reading:

WEEK 11. Nov. 13, 15, 17—The Reagan Administration


PART V: THE END OF THE COLD WAR

WEEK 12. Nov. 20: The Nuclear Flashpoint of the World?


Additional readings:

**WEEK 13. Nov. 27, 29, Dec. — Nuclear Deterrence in South Asia**


**Additional readings:**


**WEEK 14. Dec. 4, 6, 8— Post-9/11 Southern Asia**


**Additional readings:**


**Term papers are due by Dec. 11 before midnight. No exceptions.**
**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

1. **FACT-CHECKING:**
   - “Fake or Real? How to Self-Check the News and Get the Facts?,” NPR, 5 December 2016.  
     http://www.npr.org/sections/alltechconsidered/2016/12/05/503581220/fake-or-real-how-to-self-check-the-news-and-get-the-facts

2. **WRITING AND RESEARCH GUIDES:**

3. **CITATIONS:**
   Please only use *Chicago Manual of Style* (16th or the new 17th edition).  
   - Citing primary sources:
     - How to Cite Primary Sources:  
       http://libguides.gwu.edu/c.php?g=258673&p=1727875
     - Using Primary Sources using the Chicago Manual of Style:  
       http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/chicago.html

   Use bibliographic software like Zotero or Endnote for improved efficiency.

4. **NON-EXHAUSTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR TERM PAPERS**
   (IN ADDITION TO THIS SYLLABUS):
   - Cohen, Stephen P. *Shooting for a Century: The India-Pakistan Conundrum*.  


