International Relations of South Asia  
INR 3227  
Spring 2021

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Course Description and Purpose

Why should you be interested in this course?

If you have ever wanted to explore that part of the world where colonialism has left its distinct stamp, where one king is giving his subjects democracy by decree, an erstwhile Hindu kingdom is taking baby steps towards democracy and secularism, still another country is dealing with the looming problem of climate refugees and most significantly where two countries with nuclear arms have been in a border dispute for more than half a century, then this course is for you. This course will give students a broad and comprehensive introduction to the South Asia with its eight developing nations, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. While this course will look at the region against the historical background of British imperialism, its major focus will be on the dramatic developments within South Asia, during the past couple of decades. It will explore inter-state relations, the history of conflict between India and Pakistan, ethnic strife (Sri Lanka) nascent democracy (Bhutan, Nepal), non-conventional security issues including questions of environmental security posed by the sharing of international waters (Bangladesh), and climate change (Maldives). This course will analyze alternate explanations for the myriad problems dogging the region. The course uses popular media from the subcontinent to supplement the traditional mode of instruction, give students a flavor of the region and convey important concepts about South Asia and its place in the global theatre.

This is a Virtual Study Abroad (VSA) designated course in which you will engage with the culture, people, and places of others with the aid of technology. This course is designed to assist you in developing global awareness, global perspective, and global engagement through the introduction of education abroad activities and experiences.
This is a global learning discipline-specific course that counts towards your global learning graduation requirement. This course counts towards FIU’s Asian Studies Certificate and South and Southeast Asian Area Studies Certificate.

Note: Course Time Zone | Eastern Standard Time (EST). Course due dates are according to this time zone.

Course Awards

Affordability Counts

This course has been awarded the Affordability Counts Medallion. The Affordability Counts initiative at FIU seeks to make learning more affordable by reducing the cost of course materials to $60 or less. Find out more by visiting the Affordability Counts website at AffordabilityCounts.org.

Course Objectives
Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Identify the nations, major cities, water bodies, and landforms of South Asia.
2. Discuss the impact of geography on the history of South Asia.
3. Review the common colonial legacy and concepts in International Relations relevant to the politics of South Asia.
4. Understand the complexity of international politics and foreign policy concerns among South Asian states and their relations with world powers.
5. Explain the impact of transnational issues on South Asian International Relations.
6. Evaluate the nuances of political decision-making in the South Asian context present policy solutions in response to potentially real-life conflict scenarios in South Asia.
   Assess the significant issues and problems facing this region and the role of the South Asia in the global power equation.
7. Develop specific research skills in areas of international politics and South Asian area studies.
8. Conceptualize and articulate, through discussion posts, arguments, based on the analysis of different problems in the International Relations of South Asia.
9. Use college-level research and writing skills when formulating complex arguments.

Learning Goals
How will this course enhance your general awareness? This being a 3000 level course, students will develop the ability to:

- Apply basic concepts of economic development, social movements, democratic politics and political economy learned in other courses to South Asia.
• Understand contemporary global forces that shaped South Asia, with a special focus on the role of colonialism, and the effects of partition.
• Realize the unique geo-strategic issues of the region.
• Understand the ethno-religious makeup of the region and recognize when ethno-religious cleavages can become politically salient.
• Understand South Asia in the context of its relationship with great and emerging powers.
• Develop familiarity with the major current events in the region and have the ability to speak extemporaneously and cogently on these themes.
• Have a virtual understanding of the region based on the popular media of the region.

Global Learning Course Outcomes
In attaining the above-mentioned objectives, students will develop

Global Awareness - demonstrate knowledge of the geography of South Asia, its interconnectedness with the historical legacy of partition, and its modern day impact on the nations of South Asia.

Global Perspective - a multi-perspective understanding of political trends and systems of the region and engage in problem solving by conducting research and analyzing the impact of transnational issues on local policies.

Global Engagement - By studying in depth a world region beyond the United States, students will develop a positive approach towards cultural differences which is critical in their development as informed citizens of the world.

Moral Reasoning - (Ethics) watching the film Gandhi will help develop an understanding of satyagraha - Sanskrit word for “moral force” as against armed force, in the liberation movement against British colonialism.

Close reading of different types of texts, books, journal articles and contemporary newspaper articles.

Information literacy skills - develop writing skills, craft effective discussion posts that demonstrate a clear thesis and sound structure including the ability to navigate and find reliable sources in a variety of different databases/sources available through the FIU Library.

Important Information

Policies
Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

• Policies
• Netiquette
• Technical Requirements and Skills
• Accessibility and Accommodation
• Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
• Academic Misconduct Statement
Additional Course Policies

- Please check the last day to add courses, drop courses or withdraw from the University without incurring financial liability.
- All times and deadlines are given in the United States Eastern Standard Time (EST).
- No incompletes are given.
- If the instructor is unable to open an attachment, it must be resubmitted within 48 hours.
- Always check the uploaded attachment is correct. After the deadline passes, the content submitted will be used for grading.
- No makeup allowed as all assignments are available for a week. Set reminders on your phone for all deadlines and turn in the work on time. The course will not be customized for anyone.
- Instructor will not grade any assignments submitted via email- Canvas or FIU email.
- Medical emergencies generally don’t count as excuses for not submitting assignments, taking exams, as assessments are open for more than a day, therefore students have much leeway in deciding when to take the assessment or submit the assignment. The only exception would be a truly grave medical emergency/accident. In such a case, check the requirements for documentation with the instructor.
- The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus for clarity, should the need arise.
- The issues we will be exploring in this course are often contentious and there are no right or wrong answers, per se. However, there are good and bad arguments. You may hold any opinion you wish, but your arguments must be logically sound and supported by the available evidence.
- There is a time lag from when you submit an assignment and when Canvas accepts it. Avoid submitting in the last 15 minutes of the deadline.
- Late submission Policy – assignments submitted late are subject to the 5% per day grade deduction policy.

Course Prerequisites
There are no prerequisites for this course.

Proctored Exam Policy
There are no proctored exams for this course.

Textbook and Course Materials

There are some movie/video quizzes on films. Students will need to arrange/watch those films.
No textbook required. The course content is dynamic and is kept current with contemporary research articles. Reading material is available on Canvas modules.
These readings represent diverse perspectives that will contribute to the student’s global learning.

Recommended Readings
Ganguly, S. 2012. India’s Foreign Policy: Retrospect and Prospect. London: Oxford University Press.

Think tanks covering South Asia

- Afghanistan
  - Afghanistan Justice Organization (AJO)
- Bangladesh
  - Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS)
  - Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS)
- Bhutan
  - Centre for Bhutan Studies (CBS)
- India
  - Centre for Development and Peace Studies (CDPS)
- Nepal
  - Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS)
- Pakistan
  - Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA)
- Sri Lanka
  - Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute
  - Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS)

Social Media & Media

To enhance the quality of assignments it is a good idea to follow current events and the news related to developments in South Asian politics. The best sources for staying informed about current issues in South Asia for English speakers are @AFPSouthAsia, @SAMonitor, @BBCNewsAsia, @NicolaCareem, @IndiaToday, @JulieMcCarthyJM.
Social Media is increasingly becoming an important learning tool for students of South Politics. Students are encouraged to read articles/blog posts on Reddit (South Asia) and possibly contribute.

Students are expected to monitor and read the following newspapers and magazines.

- South Asia
- South Asia Monitor
- India
- The Hindu
- The Indian Express
- India Today
- Pakistan
- Dawn
- The Express Tribune
- Pakistan Today
- Bangladesh
- Daily Dhaka Times
- Dhaka Tribune
- Sri Lanka
- Ceylon Today
- https://ceylontoday.lk
- The Island
- https://island.lk

**Expectations of this Course**

This is a fully online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Most students who take a course with an online learning component do so because they are working full time. Please understand, that is the norm and do not expect any preferential treatment on account of your work status or other commitments. It is presumed that the students who registered for the course did so keeping in mind their personal commitments and the requirements of the course.

Students are expected to:

1. Read the syllabus.
2. Take the syllabus quiz.
3. Follow the course calendar and mark important submission dates on their phone calendar and meet all the deadlines.
4. Introduce themselves to the class by posting a self-introduction on the Home Page.
5. Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline to the respective assignment modules on Canvas.

The instructor will:

1. Respond to emails within 24 hrs.
2. Grade assignments within 10 business days of the submission deadline.
3. Not grade assignments submitted through email or Canvas Inbox.
4. Provide feedback on the assignments via messages and/or through the feedback column in specific assignment/s.
5. Communicate largely through messages and announcements.

Course Communication
If you have a course related query non-urgent in nature, please use the message feature of Canvas, Canvas Inbox. Check out the Canvas Conversations Tutorial or Canvas Guide to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Discussions, and the Inbox. I try to respond to messages promptly, within 24 hours (sometimes over weekends).

Important: If you have any technical issues during this course, please contact FIU Online Support Service using email, live chat, phone, or walk-in service. This will also help document any issues. Keep in mind, Canvas maintains a log of student activity in the course and of any phone calls made to the support staff at FIU Online.

Assignments & Assessments

Non-Graded Assessments:

Practice Quiz: In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the Practice Quiz from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams.

Practice Geo Quiz: There is a fun (IMO) geo quiz available. Take it to familiarize yourself with the Geo Quiz format.

Practice Exams: You may prepare yourself for Exam 1 and 2 by taking the Practice Exams.

Graded Assessments

Profile/Home Page
Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self-introduction. Be sure to post a picture.

Discussions
There are 5 discussions in this course. The purpose of the discussion is to simulate a typical classroom discussion, wherein the instructor introduces a controversial topic and students are expected to express their views based on readings/viewings. Details on Canvas Page.
Movie & iPeer Review
Hotel Mumbai: Watch the movie and write a movie review responding to the prompts on the Canvas Page. Students will then be assigned the movie review submission of another student, which they will then (peer) review. Details on Canvas page. The Class Debate will serve as an assessment of Global Perspective.

Co-Curricular Activity - South Asia in South Florida
Students will experience a South Florida based South Asia connected co-curricular activity. This may include - visit to a Hindu, Buddhist temple or a local Mosque, attending a Indian/Pakistani/Sri Lankan/Bangladeshi/Nepali festival – Holi, Diwali, Eid celebrations, a book launch or lecture on a South Asian topic, a live concert or dance performance, visit South Asian art gallery exhibit, museum, a traveling exhibition from South Asia, watch a South Asian movie in the theatre, interview a person born and raised in South Asia, watch, participate in a cricket game. Eating at a South Asian restaurant does not qualify for this activity. This is not a comprehensive list; students may suggest other activities and see prior approval of the instructor. This assignment will serve as an assessment of Global Engagement.

Reflections Blog: Students will write a short blog identifying which aspects of the course were salient to their learning, describing how their perception and understanding of the nations changed during this course.

Assessments
Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet.

Graded Quizzes:

Movie Quiz
There are 2 movie quizzes in this course.
Gandhi: Watch the movie and take the quiz. Links on Canvas page.
The Kite Runner: Watch the movie and take the quiz. Links on Canvas page.

Geo Quiz
There is 1 Geo Quiz in this course, with 20 multiple choice questions on the nations and physical features of South Asia. The Geo Quiz will serve as an assessment of Global Awareness.

PlayPosit Quiz
There are 3 video (documentary) based quiz. These short quizzes will be delivered using PlayPosit.

Exams
There are 2 Exams in this course. Each exam has 40 multiple-choice, 10 true and false and 10 matching questions, drawn from a database of more than 200 questions, to be completed in 60 minutes. These questions are based on the PPT and readings/video, some prior knowledge
Extra Credit:
Participation
Participate/Comment in the Open Forum, accessible through the Modules.
SPOT's: Take the SPOT's survey. Save the screenshot of the submission page on your computer. Attach a copy of the SPOT's survey and submit.

Zoom Video Conference
Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities. Attendance at the Zoom meetings is not mandatory. If you cannot attend, you can view the recording of the meeting on the Modules page.

Zoom Meetings will be held every second Tuesday of the month on the following dates/time:
- Meeting 1: 01/12 (Discuss Syllabus & Geo Quiz) 8:00PM - 9:00PM ET
- Meeting 2: 02/9 (Discuss Discussions Posts) 8:00PM - 9:00PM ET
- Meeting 3: 3/9, 8:00PM - 9:00PM ET
- Meeting 4: 4/13, 8:00- 9:00 PM
**These dates are tentative and may be changed.

- Download Zoom.
- Login to Zoom through Desktop Application.
- Enable and Test Audio & Webcam.
- Schedule a meeting or Join a Zoom meeting.
- Invite others to join meeting.
- Chat (Professors) - Students look at attendees section for instructions.
- Share My Screen.
- Record a Local Zoom meeting.
- Host Control in Meetings.
- Getting Started with iOS.
- Getting Started with Android.

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessments/Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homepage: Introduce Yourself</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Movie Quiz</td>
<td>10</td>
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Do not copy without the express written consent of the instructor.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessments/Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hotel Mumbai Movie Review and ipeer Review (1)</strong></td>
<td>7+3</td>
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<tr>
<td>This assignment will serve as an assessment of Global Perspective.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Geo Quiz (1)</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>This will serve as an assessment of Global Awareness.</td>
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<td><strong>Discussions (2)</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Documentary Quiz - PlayPosit Quiz (3)</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Co-curricular Report: South Asia in South Florida (1)</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>This assignment will serve as an assessment of Global Engagement.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exams (2)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Student Reflection Blog (1)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Participation - Open Forum</strong></td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td><strong>SPOTs survey screenshot</strong></td>
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## Grading

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<td>A</td>
<td>93 or above</td>
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<td>84 - 86</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 90</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>75 - 80</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
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Do not copy without the express written consent of the instructor.
Note: According to the FIU grading policy an F is awarded to students who both earn a failing grade based on course standards and who fail to complete at least 60% of the course requirements or fail to attend at least 60% of class sessions. An F equals zero grade points per credit hour and is a permanent grade.

Please note that some of the topics in this course span 1 week and some 2 weeks.

Module 1

Module 1 will discuss the historical geography of South Asia, and the process by which state boundaries have been established, contested, and reconstructed. Borders in South Asia have been a source of war and conflict, to this day.

Week 1 & 2

Topic/Description:

- Welcome to INR 3227
- Syllabus & Course Overview
- Introductions
- South Asia - Overview

Reading:

- Merchant, Minhaz “How India can lead the South Asian Century” Economic Times, April 11, 2012

Popular Media Film:

- Gandhi

Activities/Assignments:

- Read the Syllabus
- Take the Practice Quiz (optional)
- Set up your Homepage
- Gandhi Movie Quiz
- Participate in Discussion 1: Movie Review of the film Article 15 OR British Imperialism
- Co-curricular activity: South Asia in South Florida available - due Week 15

Additional Recommended Viewing

Popular Hindi Media Film: Lage Raho Munnabhai
Module 2

Module 2 will explore some of the world’s most important and unresolved bilateral conflicts. The thorny issue of Kashmir which has been the source of three wars between India and Pakistan.

Week 3 & 4

Topic/Description:

- Country Overview: India
- Geopolitical Issue India & Pakistan: The Thorny Issue of Kashmir

Required Readings:

- Bengali, S. India and Pakistan are clashing again over Kashmir. Here’s what you need to know. LA Times, 2016.
- Blank, Jonah. India Just Put Democracy at Risk Across South Asia, The Atlantic, Aug 8, 2019

Video:

- Hotel Mumbai

Activities/Assignments:

- Take the Practice Geo Quiz (optional)
- Take Geo Quiz
- Take the PlayPosit Quiz on The conflict in Kashmir, explained
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyayif_nla8
- Watch the movie Hotel Mumbai

Additional Recommended Viewing

Popular Media Film: Veer Zaara

Module 3
Module 3 will survey the injection of nuclear weapons into an already fraught relationship between India and Pakistan; how this seminal event of acquisition of nuclear weapons alarmed the world and changed the dynamics of how these two countries were to operate and be treated in international relations.

Week 5 & 6

Topic/Description:
- Country Overview: Pakistan
- Geopolitical Issue - Pakistan & India: Nuclear Tensions

Required Readings:
- Roblin, Sebastien. “Forget North Korea: This Is The Nuclear Hotspot No One is Talking About,” National Interest, November 14, 2019

Activities/Assignments:
- Write a movie review on Hotel Mumbai
- Peer review an assigned paper using peer system

Additional Recommended Viewing
Popular Media Film: Bajrangi Bhaijaan

Module 4

Module 4 surveys the constitutional development, the establishment of a republic in Nepal and the ongoing debate on secularism.

Week 7, 8

Topic/Description:
- Country Overview: Nepal
- Geopolitical Issue - Secularism in Nepal

Required Readings:
Activities/Assignments:

- Discussion 2: Nepal's Constitution
- Exam 1 on Modules 1-4

Additional Recommended Viewing

The Sari Soldiers (link to trailer)

Module 5

Module 5: Afghanistan has been crucial to US’s foreign policy. After more than two decades of war, this relationship is a very conflictual one, and an end to war is not in sight. This module analyzes what lies in Afghanistan’s future.

Week 9

Topic/Description:

- Country Overview: Future of Afghanistan
- Geopolitical Issue - Afghanistan's Future?

Required Readings:

Hashimy, Fahim “What does the future hold for Afghanistan?” WE Forum, March 16, 2016
Cookson, F. “What does the future hold for Afghanistan?” Dhaka Tribune, Sept 30, 2019

Movie:

- The Kite Runner

Activities/Assignments:

- Watch the movie The Kite Runner and take the movie quiz.
- Discussion 3 - Movie Osama
Module 6

Module 6 analyses the impact of the Sri Lankan Civil War and its aftermath, almost a decade later.

Week 10 & 11

Topic/Description:

- Country Overview: Sri Lanka
- Geopolitical Issue - The Unresolved Issue of Tamil Eelam

Required Readings:

- Nalapat, M.D. “Defeating Terrorism - Why the Tamil Tigers Lost Eelam... And How Sri Lanka Won the War” JINSA, March 2011

Movie:

Kannathil Muthamittal

Activities/Assignments:

Discussion - Watch the movie Kannathil Muthamittal (A Peck on the Cheek) and participate in the discussion.

Module 7

Module 7 explores the implications of high population density, widespread poverty and the added burden of millions of Rohingya refugees flooding in from Myanmar into resource poor Bangladesh as Bangladesh resettles these refugees and relives it’s past.

Week 12
**Week 12**

**Country Overview:** Bangladesh

**Geopolitical Issue:** Rohingya Refugee Crisis

**Required Readings:**
- The Rohingya’s Right of No Return
- As Bangladesh hosts over a million Rohingya refugees, a scholar explains what motivated the country to open up its borders.

**Activities/Assignments:**
- PlayPosit Quiz
- Rohingya Documentary: ‘A boy with no name for a people with no identity’
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TezCbjmruM

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**Module 8**

Module 8 surveys the impact of rising sea levels on security issues on Maldives and the prospect of the entire population of a nation as climate refugees.

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**Week 13**

**Country Overview:** Maldives

**Geopolitical Issue:** Maldives, A Disappearing Nation

**Required Readings:**
- Collado, Ramon E. “Vanishing Island Nations: The Case for the Maldives”
  Geopolitical Monitor, January 5, 2016

**Activities/Assignments:**
- Co Curricular Activity: South Asia in South Florida, due April 18
- Discussion 4: Will the island nations disappear as sea levels rise?
Module 9

Module 9 explores Bhutan, the birthplace of Gross National Happiness and its unique experiment of democratization by diktat of the King.

Week 14

Topic/Description:
- Country Overview: Bhutan
- Geopolitical Issue - Democratization by Decree

Required Readings:

Activities/Assignments:
Discussion 5: "Does Democracy lead to happiness?"
Post Virtual Study Abroad Student Reflection Blog

Additional Recommended Viewing:
Popular Media Film - Lunana: A Yak In The Classroom
Trailer - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nZqpBCjVrY

Week 15
Exam 2 on Modules 5-9

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