Instructor: Vasabjit Banerjee  
Office: Fletcher Hall, Room 417-I  
Office Hours: Tuesday 11AM to 12PM (noon); Thursday 11AM to 12PM (noon); and, by appointment.  
Email: vasabjit-banerjee@utc.edu

Course Catalog Description: The study of the governmental structures, processes, and ideologies of different regions of the world, comparing their political, economic, and social policies. May be repeated to focus on different regions of the world. On demand.

Course Objectives: South Asia is a rapidly evolving region with issues centering on ethnicity, religion, language, gender, economic development, democratization, civil wars, terrorism, and even nuclear wars. Scholars have developed insightful theoretical lenses to explain such phenomena. This course simultaneously educates students on two aspects: the social, cultural, institutional, and economic facets that affect South Asian politics; and, the theoretical lenses needed to understand why and how policies are made in the region, as well their effects.

Learning Objectives: This class aims to teach you to discuss and more importantly write knowledgably about social, economic, as well as foreign and economic issues that affect South Asian countries. The assigned readings aim to provide the information and existing theories that you will utilize in the assigned papers. At the same time, my lectures and our in-class discussions aim to increase your grasp of the reading material, in order to help you construct your own insights and hypotheses.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:


COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. Discussions  
   Due to the moderate size of the class, you shall be graded on your participation in class, especially on topics and group exercises that may be provided by me. Be-aware that I am judging you regarding your knowledge of the assigned readings for that particular class, how well you connect it with prior readings, and your ability to construct new insights.

2. Attendance  
   You must endeavor to attend all classes. I do not take attendance, although I reserve the right to do so. However, there will be four surprise quizzes worth 1/3 of the total points, to reward both preparedness and
attendance. Furthermore, at the end of a thematic set of readings, I shall mention their order of importance for the final exam and the surprise quizzes. Sickness and family emergencies must be reported prior to a class or within 24 hours of the missed class; proof of cause will be required.

3. Classroom Conduct
Ask yourself, “is my behavior acceptable in a business meeting?” If it is unacceptable there, then it is unacceptable in our class. Unacceptable behavior includes: sleeping in a class or putting one’s head down on the desk, reading newspapers or magazines, doing homework for other classes, using telephones, being on social media, and conducting conversations that interfere with class activities.

4. Assignments
You must do your assigned readings for the classes.
You must appear for the Final Exam.
You must submit the three assigned papers.

These papers must be: typed; in 12-point font size; Times New Roman in font style; double spaced; Page Numbered; with 1-1.25 inch margins; proofread for spelling and grammatical errors; and, stapled.

They must also include, at the top right hand corner of the first page: the student’s name; my name; the course number; assignment title; and the date the assignment is turned in.

Written by: Charles Chaplin
Written for: Vasabjit Banerjee
Course: Comparative Government and Politics, POLS 3430r
Assignment: Paper 1 – “Insert your Title Here”
Date: Month/Day/Year

5. Academic Integrity
“To plagiarize means to take someone else’s words and/or ideas (or patterns of ideas) and to present them to the reader as if they are yours. Plagiarism, then, is an act of stealing.” (From Plagiarism in the UTC Students Handbook, Pg. 4-6). This offence will result in an automatic F (or 0 Points) on the particular project, and the docking of a full letter grade at the end of the semester (from A to B, B to C, and so on). It may also result in you failing the course and being reported to the administration. Please consult the online Students Handbook: <http://www.utc.edu/dean-students/pdfs/academics.pdf>.

6. Students with Disabilities
Students with visual, hearing, physical, and/or learning disabilities that may require modification of the curriculum, instruction, or assessment should contact me. Modifications and accommodations will be made after the student has presented documentation indicating qualification for services from the Disability Resource Center (Tel.: 425-4006; Room 102, Frist Hall). For more information on students with disabilities, go to their website at: http://www.utc.edu/Administration/DisabilityResourceCenter.
If you find that personal problems, career indecision, study and time management difficulties, etc. are adversely affecting your successful progress at UTC, please contact the Counseling and Career Planning Center at 425-4438 or http://www.utc.edu/Administration/CounselingAndCareerPlanning/.

EVALUATION:

Class Participation 50 Points
Attendance, Participation, and Preparedness

Surprise Quizzes: 25 Points x 4 100 Points
Papers
  Paper 1 25 Points
  Paper 2 25 Points
  Paper 3 50 Points

Final Exams 50 Points
Total 300 Points

REQUIRED PAPERS

During the first four weeks of classes, I shall have a 15 minute module on paper writing. Prior results show that following my instructions and understanding the concepts leads to significant increases in grades for papers.

Paper 1: The Interests of and Threats to a South Asian State (and Society)
Minimum Length: 5 Pages

First choose one state in South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, or Bhutan). Second, select the top three domestic and/or international interests of that state or society and the top three domestic and/or international threats to these interests.

Subsequently, explain the importance of the selected interests and threats, that is, why they matter more than others. Do empirical research outside of the readings and cite at least four different articles/chapters/books in your paper.

Paper 2: The Top Interest and Threat to the State (and Society)
Minimum Length: 5 Pages

First, choose the topmost (out of the three you presented in Paper 1) international interest of the state/society you selected and the topmost threat (out of the three you presented in Paper 1). Second, explain how you would resolve this threat: by using one or more domestic and international policies. Again, do research other than the assigned readings and choose at least four different articles/chapters.

Paper 3: Externalities and Complete Paper Submission
Minimum Length: 15 Pages

First, explain whether and how your chosen solution to the topmost threat to the topmost interest that you chose in Paper 2 affects the two other interests and threats that you selected in Paper 1. The Final Paper must integrate Papers 1
and 2 with 3 into a coherent article. Hint: after your Introduction, your first section should be based on Paper 1, the second section on Paper 2, and the third section on the new query for Paper 3, which will be followed by the Conclusion.

News Sources:

India: The Indian Express: <http://indianexpress.com>
India: The Hindu: <http://www.thehindu.com/>
India: The Telegraph: <http://www.telegraphindia.com/>
Pakistan: The Dawn: <http://www.dawn.com>
Bangladesh: The Daily Ittefaq: <http://www.clickittefaq.com/>
Bangladesh: The Daily Star: <http://www.clickittefaq.com/>


CLASSES:

Histories Matter – Pre-Colonial and Colonial India
Week 1: August 18, 20, 22
India: Political Culture and Heritage, Pg. 13-42
Pakistan: Political Culture and Heritage, Pg. 151-160
Bangladesh: Political Culture and Heritage, Pg. 245-261

Post-Colonial Institutions
Week 2: August 25, 27, 29
India: State Institutions and Changing Political Dynamics, Pg. 43-83
Pakistan: Constitutional Structure, Pg. 161-180
Histories Matter – The Peripheries of Colonial Rule
Week 3: September 1 (Labor Day), 3, 5
Nepal: Political Heritage and Culture, Pg. 399-414
Sri Lanka: Political Heritage and Culture, Pg. 331-343
Sri Lanka: Government Structure, Pg. 344-358

Economies I – Colonial Legacies
Week 4: September 8, 10, 12

Economies II – Postcolonial Aspirations
Week 5: September 15, 17, 19

Economies III – Inequalities and Class Politics
Week 6: September 22, 24, 26

Political Parties and Interest Groups I
Week 7: September 29, October 1, 3
SUBMIT PAPER 1: SEPTEMBER 29
India: Ch. 4, Shifting Perspectives about Political Parties and Political Leaders, Pg. 84-114
Pakistan: Ch. 10, Political Parties and Political Leaders, Pg. 181-202
Political Parties and Interest Groups II
Week 8: October 6, 8, 10

Sri Lanka: Ch. 21, Political Parties and Interest Groups, Pg. 359
Nepal: Ch. 27, Political Parties, Elections, Leaders, Pg. 435

Identity Politics I: State Institutions
Week 9: October 13, 15, 17


Identity Politics II: Party Politics and Violence
Week 10: October 20-{Fall-Break}, 22, 24


Gender, Society, and Politics
Week 11: October 27, 29, 31
SUBMIT PAPER 2: OCTOBER 27

SAW: Ch. 9, Wilson, Nicole A.. “Arranging a Marriage in Middle-Class Southern India.” Pg. 131-150

SAW: Ch. 11, Khan, Faris A.. “Kwaja Sira: Transgender Activism and Transnationality in Pakistan.” Pg. 170-184.

SAW: Ch. 15, Crawford, Mary. “Sex Trafficking in Nepal.” Pg. 227-240.


Internal Conflicts and State Reactions
Week 12: November 3, 5, 7


**Foreign Policies I: within South Asia**
**Week 13: November 10, 12, 14**


**Foreign Policies II: with the World**
**Week 14: November 17, 19, 21**


**TBA**
**Week 15: November 24, 26, 28 (Thanksgiving Break)**

**SUBMIT FINAL PAPER: NOVEMBER 24**

Examination Review
**Week 16: December 1**

**FINAL EXAMINATIONS: Monday, December 8: 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM**