STABILITY AND CONFLICT IN SOUTH ASIA (PSC 288-10)

Lectures: Monday 5:10-7:00 p.m. Emmanuel Teitelbaum
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Office Hours: By Appointment (202) 994-9125

The class focuses on the related issues of political stability and violence in South Asia. Students will be encouraged to explore a variety of explanations for variations in stability and violence, and to apply these explanations to case studies in the region. The course divides into two parts. The first half of the course focuses on the politics of various forms of violence in India, including ethno-linguistic conflict, ethno-religious conflict, caste-conflict, rural insurgencies and violence against women. The second half focuses on civil conflict and state failure in other South Asia countries and regions, including Sri Lanka, Nepal, the Kashmir region, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Course Requirements

Assignments

1) Two argumentative essays (40% each)
2) Memos and class participation (20%)

Readings

We will read between 150 and 200 pages per week of academic materials. Copies of most materials will be placed on Blackboard or on reserve. You may wish to purchase copies of the following books, of which we will read substantial portions:

Academic Texts


**Argumentative essays**

Two 10-12 page argumentative essays constitute the core set of assignments for this course. The purpose of these essays is to provide you with the opportunity to critically engage the readings in each of the course’s two main issue areas.

These papers are to be argumentative essays, not book reports. At the beginning of each section of the course, I will provide ‘guideline questions’ that will aid you in constructing your essays; however, I encourage you to be creative in developing the central questions and arguments for your papers. Papers with good original questions will, on average, receive better marks than those that mimic the guideline questions or questions asked by other students.

You should draw on as many readings in the section of the course as apply to the central question addressed in your essay.

I encourage you to discuss ideas for your papers with me during office hours. I am also willing to review drafts of papers, but only during office hours and not over e-mail.

The papers should be no less than 10 pages in length and no more than 12 pages in length. Pages must be double-spaced, with 12 point Times New Roman font, and one-inch margins on all sides.

**Memos and Class Participation**

You are required to submit a 250 to 500-word memo on the readings each week. These memos should include a brief summary and at least two criticisms of the readings for that week. The primary purpose of the memos is to prepare you to discuss the readings in class. The memos will also help you to recall your central critiques of the arguments presented in each week’s readings when you sit down to write your argumentative essays. Please circulate your memos via e-mail to the class list no later than midnight the night before the day of class.
January 12: Introduction

January 19: No Class, Martin Luther King Holiday

Overview

January 26: Theoretical Perspectives on Violence

Boix, Carles. “Economic Roots of Civil Wars and Revolutions in the Contemporary World,” World Politics.
Ollapally, Deepa. The Politics of Extremism in South Asia, Chapters 1 and 2.

Part I: The Politics of Violence in India

February 2: Ethnic Conflict, Part I (The Role of Elites)

Brass, Paul. Theft of an Idol.

February 9: Ethnic Conflict, Part II (The Role of Civil Society)


February 16: No Class, President’s Day

February 23: Ethnic Conflict, Part III (The Role of Political Institutions)

Kohli, Atul. Democracy and Discontent.

March 2: Caste Conflict

Bayly, Susan. Caste, Society and Politics in India.
Chhibber, Pradeep. Democracy Without Associations.
Human Rights Watch. Broken People.

March 9: Rural Protest and Insurgencies


March 16: No Class, Spring Break
March 23: Violence Against Women


**Part II: Civil Conflict and State Failure in South Asia**

March 30: Sri Lanka

Richardson, John. *Paradise Poisoned.*
Shastri, Amita. Reading TBA.

***First Essay Due at Start of Class***

April 6: Nepal

Hutt Michael, ed. *Himalayan People’s War,* Chapters 1-3.

April 13: Kashmir

Bose, Sumantra. *Kashmir.*

April 20: Bangladesh

Additional readings, TBA.

April 27: Pakistan


April 29: Afghanistan and Al Qaeda

Coll, Steve. *Ghost Wars.*

***Second Essay due Monday, May 11***