

PSC/IR 266
The Politics of India and Pakistan
Fall 2026
12:30pm-1:45pm
Dewey 2-110D

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Instructor:

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 10-12. Exam weeks by appointment.

Course Goals:

This course is designed to give students a strong knowledge of the politics of two very important countries, India and Pakistan. There will be additional treatment of the politics of Bangladesh and other South Asian states. As such it will cover many topics that are routine in comparative politics courses: The basic history of the countries, the structure of their political institutions, and the major political conflicts and actors. In addition, however, we would like to use South Asia as case to examine at some of deeper questions of political science, such as the causes of development, underdevelopment, democracy and identity formation. To do this, we will make frequent use of the comparative method, examining the contract between India and Pakistan, between various regions of these countries, and between various eras of their history

Textbooks:

Bose, Sugata, and Ayesha Jalal. *Modern South Asia : History, Culture, Political Economy*. 5th ed. London: Routledge, 2023.

Grading:

Class Participation — 20%

Four exams—18% each

Movie exam-8%

WI Grading:

Class Participation — 15%

Four exams—15% each

Research Paper—20%

Movie exam-5%

Course Policies:

Unexcused late work will be penalized a whole letter grade, and an additional letter grade for every additional 24 hours of lateness. Plagiarism or cheating will be treated seriously and reported to the Board of Academic Honesty.

Academic Honesty: All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy (www.rochester.edu/college/honesty). You are encouraged to discuss the course readings and lectures with your fellow students, but all work you submit must be written independently and must be your own. Suspected violations will be reported to the Board on Academic Honesty. If you are unsure whether a resource, tool, or form of collaboration is permitted, ask me before you use it.

Honor Pledge: Before each exam, you will be asked to handwrite and sign the following pledge: "I affirm that I will not give or receive any unauthorized help on this exam, and that all work will be my own."

Generative AI Policy: With the single exception of the research paper described below, all graded assessments in this course must be completed without the use of any GenAI. Do not use AI tools to generate any content, such as text (including translation or editing software such as Grammarly), video, audio, code, or data for this course that will ultimately be submitted to me. The use of GenAI for any assignment other than the research paper will be considered a violation of the SAS/Hajim Academic Honesty Policy. If you have any questions about whether a resource or tool is permissible under this policy, please talk to me first before using it.

AI and the research paper (WI students): The research paper is the one assignment in this course for which GenAI use is permitted. It may be researched and written with the use of LLMs, but expectations will be correspondingly high. If you use these tools, you must clearly and appropriately acknowledge that use in a short note appended to the paper, stating which tools you used and how you used them; see the APA Style Guide for how to cite AI-generated content. Failing to cite verbatim quotes or paraphrased material from a generative AI tool is considered plagiarism. You remain responsible for the accuracy of everything you submit. These tools regularly invent citations and misstate findings, so verify every source and claim against the original; submission of inaccurate or hallucinated content may be considered a form of fabrication and could result in an academic honesty case being filed. Where the use of AI is not clearly permitted above, you should assume that it is not allowed.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Reading: Students will be graded on their attendance and participation in all classes.

Exams: Exams will be conducted in class. Students will have to identify and describe key terms from sections since the previous exam. Students can choose to make up one exam of their choice. The make-up exam session will be held on December 15th.

Movie Exam: Students are asked to watch four of the following seven films by November 19th:

Court (2014) [Kanopy, Netflix]

No One Killed Jessica (2011) [DVD, Amazon Prime]

Rajneeti (2010) [DVD, YouTube (No Subtitles)]

Calcutta 71 (1972) [Amazon Prime]

Padmaavat (2018) [DVD, Netflix]

Jinnah (1998) [DVD, Amazon Prime]

Matir Moina (2002) [DVD, Kanopy]

An in-class exam will ask students to identify clips from the films and write an essay on themes from the films.

Research Proposal: Students should produce an original research paper of at least 30 double spaced pages on a topic related to the course materials. The paper may be written and researched with the use of LLM models, but expectations will be correspondingly high.

Readings

Week 1: Introduction

Introduction: September 1st

Lecture: *The Geography and Culture of South Asia*, September 3rd

Week 2: Colonial South Asia

Lecture: *The History of South Asia Before 1857*, September 8th:

Bose and Jalal. Ch. 2-9.

Lecture: *High Colonialism and Independence*, September 10th

Bose and Jalal. Ch. 10-17

Week 3: Formal Political Institutions

Lecture: *Formal Political Institutions*, September 15th

Oberst, Robert C. *Government and politics in South Asia*. Routledge, 2018. Chapter 3.

Exam: September 17th

Week 4: The Post-Independence Period

Lecture: Post-Independence India, September 22nd

Bose and Jalal. Ch. 19-20

Kothari, Rajni. "The Congress' System' in India." *Asian survey* 4.12 (1964): 1161-1173.

Brass, Paul R. *Factional politics in an Indian state: the Congress Party in Uttar Pradesh*. Univ of California Press, 1965. Chapter 4

Lecture: Post-Independence Pakistan and Bangladesh, September 24th

Siddiqi, Ayesha. *Military Inc.: inside Pakistan's military economy*. Penguin Random House India, 2017. P.58-111.

Bass, Gary J. *The Blood Telegram*. Random House India, 2013. Preface

Week 5: The Great Democracy Debate

Seminar: Why is India a Stable* Democracy?, September 29th

Moore, Barrington. *The Social origins of dictatorship and democracy; lord and peasant in the making of the modern world*. Boston, Beacon Press [1966] P.314-317, 370-375, 406-410 [partial].

Banerjee, Mukulika. *Why India Votes?*. Routledge India, 2017. Chapter 2

Lijphart, Arend. "The puzzle of Indian democracy: A consociational interpretation." *American political science review* 90.2 (1996): 258-268.

Austin, Granville. *The Indian constitution: Cornerstone of a nation*. Oxford University Press (1966). Chapter 13.

Seminar: Why is Pakistan not a Stable Democracy?, October 1st

Ayesha Jalal, *Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia*. Cambridge University Press, 1995. P 29-38.

Tudor, Maya. *The promise of power: The origins of democracy in India and autocracy in Pakistan*. Cambridge University Press, 2013. P.1-7, 20-36

Wilkinson, Steven I. *Army and Nation*. Harvard University Press, 2015. 1-27

Week 6: Democracy Under Threat?

Seminar: Democracy in the 21st Century, October 6th

Tudor, Maya. "Why India's democracy is dying." *Journal of Democracy* 34.3 (2023): 121-132.

Verma, Rahul. "The exaggerated death of Indian democracy." *Journal of Democracy* 34.3 (2023): 153-161.

Auerbach, Adam Michael, et al. "Rethinking the study of electoral politics in the developing world: Reflections on the Indian case." *Perspectives on Politics* 20.1 (2022): 250-264.

Exam: October 8th

No Class October 15th

Week 7: Identities: Religion

Lecture: *Hindu Nationalism*, October 20th

Seminar: *Hindu Nationalism*, October 22nd

Wilkinson Steven. *Votes and Violence* Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2004. P1-9, 12-16.
Hansen, Thomas Blom. *The saffron wave: Democracy and Hindu nationalism in modern India*. Princeton University Press, 1999. P. 3-14, 104-115.
Thachil, Tariq. "Elite parties and poor voters: Theory and evidence from India." *American Political Science Review*(2014): 454-9, 469-75. [Not whole]
Jaffrelot, Christophe. *Modi's India: Hindu nationalism and the rise of ethnic democracy*. Princeton UP (2021) Chapter 5

Week 8: Identities: Caste

Lecture: *The Politics of Caste*, October 27th

Christophe Jaffrelot, "The Rise of the Other Backward Castes in the Hindi Belt," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 59, no. 1 (February 2000): 86-108.
Chandra, Kanchan. *Why ethnic parties succeed: Patronage and ethnic head counts in India*. Cambridge University Press, 2007. P 11-15, 72-95.
Shah, Ghanshyam. *Untouchability in rural India*. Sage, 2006. P. 69-91.

Seminar: *Caste-based quotas*, October 29th

Dunning, Thad, and Janhavi Nilekani. "Ethnic quotas and political mobilization: caste, parties, and distribution in Indian village councils." *American political Science review* 107.1 (2013): 35-56.
Bertrand, Marianne, Rema Hanna, and Sendhil Mullainathan. "Affirmative action in education: Evidence from engineering college admissions in India." *Journal of Public Economics* 94.1-2 (2010): 16-29.
Subramanian, Ajantha. *The caste of merit: Engineering education in India*. Harvard University Press, 2019. Chapter 6.

Week 9: Identities: Region and Language

Lecture: *Region and Language*, November 3rd

Weiner, Myron. *Sons of the soil: Migration and ethnic conflict in India*. Princeton University Press, 2015. P. 75-86, 92-6, -104-124.

Subramanian, Narendra. *Ethnicity and Populist Mobilization: Political parties, citizens and democracy in South India*. Oxford University Press, 1999. 130-54, 164-73.

Exam: November 5th

Week 10: The Practice of Politics

Seminar: *Clientelism*, November 10th

Mohmand, Shandana Khan. *Crafty oligarchs, savvy voters: Democracy under inequality in rural Pakistan*. Cambridge University Press, 2019. 1-37 [partial].

Hoque, Ashraf. "The Rookie." In Michelutti, Lucia, et al. *Mafia raj: the rule of bosses in South Asia*. Stanford University Press, 2018 p. 51-70.

Banerjee, Mukulika. "Leadership and Political Work." In Price, Pamela, and Arild Engelsen Ruud eds. *Power and influence in India: bosses, lords and captains*. Routledge India, 2012, p. 20-42.

Seminar: *Public Service Delivery*, November 12th

Shami, Mahvish. "Collective action, clientelism, and connectivity." *American Political Science Review* 106.3 (2012): 588-606.

Corbridge, Stuart, Glyn Williams, Manoj Srivastava, René Véron, and René Véron. *Seeing the State: Governance and Governmentality in India*, Cambridge University Press, 2005. Chapters 3 and 6.

Week 11: Gender

Seminar: *Gender*, November 17th

Karekurve-Ramachandra, Varun and Alexander Lee. "Gender Quotas and Constituency Service in Indian Local Government" *Comparative Political Studies*, 58.5 (2025): 924-962.

Chattopadhyay, Raghavendra, and Esther Duflo. "Women as policy makers: Evidence from a randomized policy experiment in India." *Econometrica* 72.5 (2004): 1409-1414, 1423-34 [partial].

Roychowdhury, Poulami. *Capable women, incapable states: Negotiating violence and rights in India*. Oxford University Press, 2020. Chapter 2.

Movie Exam: November 19th

No Class November 24th

Week 12: Institutions

Seminar: *The Bureaucracy*, December 1st

Bertrand, M., S. Djankov, R. Hanna and S. Mullainathan. 2007. "Obtaining a Driver's License in India: An Experimental Approach to Studying Corruption," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122:4, 1639-1648, 1661-1675 [partial].

Dasgupta, Aditya, and Devesh Kapur. "The Political Economy of Bureaucratic Overload: Evidence from Rural Development Officials in India." *American Political Science Review* 114.4 (2020): 1316-1334.

Bussell, Jennifer L. "Why get technical? Corruption and the politics of public service reform in the Indian states." *Comparative Political Studies* 43.10 (2010): 1230-1257.

Seminar: The Police, December 3rd

Lee, Alexander. *Democracy and Impunity: The Politics of Policing in Modern India*. Oxford University Press, Forthcoming, Chapters 3 and 4.

Vaishnav, Milan. *When crime pays: Money and muscle in Indian politics*. Yale University Press, 2017. P 1-12, 17-23.

Banerjee, Abhijit, et al. "Improving police performance in Rajasthan, India: Experimental evidence on incentives, managerial autonomy, and training." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 13.1 (2021): 36-66.

Week 13: Foreign Policy

Seminar: Foreign Policy, December 8th

Ganguly, Sumit. *Deadly impasse*. Cambridge University Press, 2016. P. 1-19.

Miller, Manjari Chatterjee. "India's Feeble Foreign Policy: A would-be great power resists its own rise." *Foreign Affairs* 92.3 (2013): 14-19.

Sagan, Scott D. "The perils of proliferation in South Asia." *Asian Survey* 41.6 (2001): 1064-1086.

Exam: December 10th