South Asia: Development & Social Change  
INTL 442/542, Fall 2014  
T, Th 12-1:20, 117 GSH  
http://www.uoregon.edu/~aweiss/intl442_542

Course Syllabus

This course is an introduction to the vast social changes occurring in the South Asian subcontinent. In the first half of the course, our focus will be placed on India and Pakistan – two of the most populated countries in the world – though issues involving other countries will be addressed as appropriate. We begin with a brief overview of the subcontinent, examining internal and external social forces that have had a great impact on these societies, culminating in Independence from Britain in 1947. We then focus on post-independence paths of development in India and Pakistan, looking in particular at patterns of industrialization, economic planning, political crises, challenges, and institution building.

Building on this, we turn our attention to major issues in the arena of development and social change, including the rise of women and demands for women’s rights; attempts to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development in urban areas; the struggle to create viable political institutions given prevailing conditions of illiteracy and ethnic diversity along with convulsive religious and ethnic disputes. This second section will focus a great deal on student participation.

Course Objectives:
1. To gain an awareness of the historical background of the subcontinent and the influence of history on contemporary society;
2. To understand the sociocultural similarities yet significant diversity within this culture area;
3. To learn about the political and economic realities and challenges of this region;
4. To understand the rapid social changes the region is experiencing;
5. To brainstorm on possible regional solutions to challenges confronting the region.

Grading for the course will be assessed on the following:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
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<td>a. In-class mid-term exam on Thursday, November 1</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>b. Participation in classroom discussions (not simply attendance):</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>c. Group project (separate hand-out will be distributed in class):</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>d. Final essay, handed out on November 25th and is due on December 4th</td>
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All readings should be completed before the class in which they will be addressed to facilitate discussion. While there is no additional requirement, per se, for graduate students, it is expected that they will be eminently prepared for all in-class discussions and will take the lead – or share the lead – in facilitating the group projects.
The following three required books are available at the U of O bookstore:
Akash Kapur *India Becoming: A Portrait of Life in Modern India* Riverhead Books, 2012
Lawrence Saez *The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC): An Emerging Collaboration Architecture* Routledge, 2012


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**Course Outline**

**WEEKS I & II**  
**Introduction: Contextualizing History, Culture and Society**  
September 30 - October 9  
Film to be screened: *Origins of India’s Hindu Civilization*

We will explore the cultural background of the Great Traditions of Hinduism and Islam in the subcontinent, the basis of social organization as well as cover the social impact of the British Raj.

**Required Readings:**
Guneratne & Weiss, p. 1-18, 21-92  
HDC, p. 16-30  
Saez, p. 1-7, 8-17

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**WEEK III**  
**Post-Independence Political and Economic Goals and Challenges: India**  
October 14-16

**Required Readings:**
Guneratne & Weiss, p. 105-147  
HDC, p. 31-64  
Kapur, entire

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**WEEK IV**  
**Post-Independence Political and Economic Goals and Challenges: Pakistan**  
October 21-23

**Required Readings:**
Guneratne & Weiss, p. 169-207, 345-355  
HDC, p. 65-108, 109-132
WEEK V       The Social Costs of Militarism in the Region
October 28-30

Required Readings:

WEEK VI       In-Class Mid-term Examination
November 4

WEEK VI       Regional Concerns: the Promise of SAARC and SAFTA
November 6

Required Readings:
Saez, p. 17-29, 30-33, 48-70, 71-93, 94-110
*SAARC homepage: “Areas of Cooperation” (accessible via the course website)

From now on, the class format will change, and we will be fully engaged with each of the five countries of South Asia. On Tuesdays, we will discuss the larger arenas of the issue as well as the readings. On Thursdays, we will begin each class with 5-7 minute oral presentations from each of the five groups, take a caucus break and then explore possibilities for regional cooperation on the issues under discussion.

WEEK VII       Women's Empowerment: Literacy, Employment and Political Participation
November 11-13

Required Readings:
HDC, p. 197-224

WEEK VIII      Urban Environmental Challenges and Poverty Alleviation
November 18-20

Required Readings:
HDC, p. 225-241
Weeks IX & X Political Challenges and Religious/Ethnic Conflict
Final essay topic will be handed out in class on November 25th and will be due on Thursday December 4th.

November 25 and December 2

Required Readings:
Guneratne & Weiss, p. 218-221
HDC, p. 264-307

Week X Discussion: Struggles over Rights and Seeking Common Ground
December 4

This last day of class, we’ll be discussing various struggles over rights discussed in Guneratne & Weiss, exploring the results of the group process, and our visions of South Asia’s future.

Required Readings:
Guneratne & Weiss, p. 157-163, 332-337, 393-399

Graded essays will be available from Professor Weiss during Winter term. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you would prefer she mail it to you in January.