

**Professor Chester
Hellems 225
Office Hours: M 3-4, F 9-9:50, and by appointment
chester@colorado.edu**

IAFS 4500: Conflict and Culture in South Asia
<<https://learn.colorado.edu/d2l/home/125417>>

This course examines a range of contemporary challenges in the context of South Asia. We will discuss issues relating to women and gender, youth and education, the Taliban, Afghanistan, communalism, the environment, and nuclear proliferation. This syllabus is subject to change as current events dictate.

This is a capstone course, and students are expected to read thoroughly and thoughtfully. The weekly reading load will often top 100 pages. Course requirements include active seminar participation, a short policy paper, a book review, a group discussion presentation, a research presentation, and a final policy paper.

REQUIRED READING:

Available at bookstore:

Ahmed Rashid, *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil, and Fundamentalism in Central Asia*, 2nd ed. (New Haven: Yale UP, 2010)

Arundhati Roy, *The Cost of Living* (New York: Modern Library, 1999)

Malala Yousafzai, *I Am Malala* (New York: Little, Brown and Co, 2013)

Available on D2L:

Flavia Agnes, Audrey D'Mello, and Persis Sidhva, "The Making of a High-Profile Rape Trial," *Economic & Political Weekly* 49: 29 (19 Jul 2014): 37-41

Stephen Biddle, "Ending the War in Afghanistan," *Foreign Affairs* 92:5 (Sep/Oct 2013) 49-58

Uday Chandra, "Rashoman Revisited: Contending Narratives on a Gang Rape in West Bengal," *Economic & Political Weekly* 49: 17 (26 Apr 2014): 15-17

Debolina Dutta and Oishik Sircar, "India's Winter of Discontent: Some Feminist Dilemmas in the Wake of a Rape," *Feminist Studies* 39:1 (2013): 293-306

Sumit Ganguly, "The Crisis of Indian Secularism," *Journal of Democracy* 14.4 (2003) 11-25

Human Rights Watch, "'We Have No Orders to Save You': State Participation and Complicity in Communal Violence in Gujarat" 14:3 (Apr 2002)

Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses," in Mohanty et al, *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism* (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991): 51-80

Marina Ottaway and Anatol Lieven, "Rebuilding Afghanistan," in Sumit Ganguly, *South Asia* (New York: New York UP, 2006) 104-112

Poulami Roychowdhury, "'The Delhi Gang Rape': The Making of International Causes," *Feminist Studies* 39:1 (2013): 282-292

Barnett Rubin, "A Blueprint for Afghanistan," in Ganguly, *South Asia* 113-124

Scott Sagan, ed. *Inside Nuclear South Asia* (Stanford: Stanford UP, 2009) 13-19, 137-170, 219-254

Matt Waldman, *Strategic Empathy* (Washington: New America Foundation, 2014)

ASSIGNMENTS:

CLASS PARTICIPATION

In order to succeed in this course, you must do the required reading before our Monday meeting and come to class prepared to join actively in discussion. You'll also need to stay up-to-date on current events in South Asia and bring in articles that relate to the assigned reading.

POLICY PAPER—SEP 21

In 5-7 pages, offer a policy-oriented analysis (that is, a report making policy recommendations) based on your research on a current issue in South Asian affairs.

BOOK REVIEW—OCT 12

Write a scholarly review of a book of your choosing.

DISCUSSION PRESENTATION—WEEKS 3-9

Students will lead class discussion, analyzing a current event related to that week's theme.

RESEARCH BRIEFING—NOV 11-DEC 9

Students will brief the class during weeks twelve through sixteen on their developing research papers.

FINAL POLICY PAPER (15-20 pages)—DUE DEC 11

Design your own paper topic, in consultation with me, on a subject you did not explore in your first policy paper.

GRADING

Student grades will be determined on the basis of class participation (10%); book review (15%); shorter policy paper (15%); discussion presentation (20%); research briefing (10%); and final policy paper (30%). Please note that only paper copies, not electronic submissions, will be accepted for written assignments. If you need an extension, **discuss it with me in advance**, except in cases of documented medical or family emergency. Late assignments will be penalized a third of a grade for each day they are late; for example, an A paper that is submitted two days late will receive a B+. I grade as follows: 98-100=A+, 94-97=A, 90-93=A-, 87-89=B+, 84-86=B, 80-83=B-, 77-79=C+, 74-76=C, 70-73=C-, 67-69=D+, 64-66=D, 60-63=D-, 59 and below=F.

OFFICE HOURS AND EMAIL

Coming to my office hours (Monday 3-4, Friday 9-9:50, and by appointment) for a face-to-face discussion is the best way to get immediate feedback. Email should be reserved for questions I can answer in a sentence or two. I aim to reply to emails within 72 hours (excluding weekends).

RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS AND CLASS CONFLICTS

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please let me know at least two weeks in advance if you have a conflict with exams, assignments, or class meetings because of religious obligations. We will work together to arrange appropriate accommodations. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

DISABILITY SERVICES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions: Injuries, Surgeries, and Illnesses guidelines under Quick Links at the Disability Services website and discuss your needs with me.

DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/>

PLAGIARISM AND THE HONOR CODE

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. As a violation of the CU Honor Code and the university's policy on Academic Integrity, it is punishable by dismissal from the university. We will discuss proper citation in class, but you are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the meanings of plagiarism; "Sources: Their Use and Acknowledgement," published by Dartmouth College, is an excellent resource <www.dartmouth.edu/~sources>.

A key element of the university Honor Code is that CU students will not plagiarize (that is, use the words and thoughts of others as their own). As part of the effort to control plagiarism and to ensure that submitted works from students are fully their own, the university has subscribed to TurnItIn.com. As the Honor Code website notes, "This service allows faculty to submit sentences, paragraphs, or entire term/research papers or other scholarly works to the TurnItIn.com website for review. After the service scans more than 1.5 billion pages on the Internet, the faculty member will receive a report including the percentage of the material that has been identified as drawn from other sources, the degree of similarity in the matching material, and live hyperlinks to the original source material so that each faculty member can determine for themselves whether plagiarism has indeed occurred." The electronic files submitted will then become part of the TurnItIn "closed database." According to the Honor Code website, "This procedure not only ensures that multiple submissions of the same material can be detected, regardless of the passage of time or the location of the submission, but protects the integrity of each student's scholarly efforts. No additional access to, use, or publication of the material in this paper bank is made by TurnItIn.com."

It is my intention to submit all student papers to TurnItIn.com, to give a grade of F in the course to any student in violation of the CU Honor Code, and to refer incidents of plagiarism to the Honor Code Council. Note that you cannot submit the same material for two different classes without the express permission of both instructors.

If you have any questions about this procedure or about any matter regarding proper citation and the Honor Code, don't hesitate to ask me.

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

In this class, we will all treat each other with respect. Civil discussion of differing viewpoints is an essential part of the study of international affairs. I expect that we will all arrive on time and remain for the entire class; let me know before class if you'll need to leave early. We will discuss technology use and come up with a class policy together, but please respect your colleagues' need to concentrate. In order to avoid distracting them, please do not eat, sleep, surf the web, read the newspaper, text, play games, or have private conversations during class.

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK ONE: Introduction and Historical Context

Readings: reliable news sources for current events in South Asia (see <http://www.colorado.edu/history/chester/SAAsiaNews.htm>)

- Aug 24: course introduction
- Aug 26: introduction to South Asia
- Aug 30: Malala Yousafzai

WEEK TWO: Religion and Gender in Pakistan

Reading: Yousafzai

- Aug 31: South Asian religions, reading discussion
- Sep 2: Pashtun culture, reading discussion
- Sep 4: discussion of related current events

WEEK THREE: Taliban I

Rashid 1-104

- Sep 7: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
- Sep 9: variations on the veil, reading discussion
- Sep 11: student-led current events discussion

WEEK FOUR: Taliban II

Rashid 105-206

- Sep 14: Who's who in Afghanistan
- Sep 16: reading discussion
- Sep 18: student-led current events discussion

WEEK FIVE: The Future of Afghanistan

Policy paper due at beginning of class on Mon

Rashid 207-246, Ottaway and Lieven, Rubin, Biddle, Waldman

- Sep 21: evaluating policy recommendations
- Sep 23: reading discussion
- Sep 25: student-led current events discussion

WEEK SIX: Communalism and Fundamentalism

HRW, "We Have No Orders to Save You"

Ganguly, "Crisis of Indian Secularism"

- Sep 28: Gujarat massacres
- Sep 30: student-led current events discussion
- Oct 2: NO CLASS

WEEK SEVEN: Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

Roy 7-126

- Oct 5: *A Narmada Diary* screening
- Oct 7: *Narmada Diary* cont., reading discussion
- Oct 9: student-led current events discussion

WEEK EIGHT: Gender in India

Book review due at beginning of class on Monday

Agnes, Chandra, Dutta, Mohanty, Roychowdhury

- Oct 12: gender in India
- Oct 14: the Gulabi Gang
- Oct 16: student-led current events discussion

WEEK NINE: Nuclear Weapons and Security

Sagan excerpts

- Oct 19: nuclear proliferation, reading discussion
- Oct 21: the art of the briefing
- Oct 23: student-led current events discussion

WEEK TEN: Research Meetings

Prepare for your research meeting

- Oct 26: one-on-one research meetings with Prof. Chester in HLMS 225
- Oct 28: one-on-one research meetings with Prof. Chester in HLMS 225
- Oct 30: one-on-one research meetings with Prof. Chester in HLMS 225

WEEK ELEVEN: Research Tools

- Nov 2: library visit
- Nov 4: writing discussion
- Nov 6: writing discussion

WEEK TWELVE: Research Briefings

Self-selected research reading; prepare your research briefing

- Nov 9: writing workshop
- Nov 11: research briefings
- Nov 13: research briefings

WEEK THIRTEEN: Research Briefings

Self-selected research reading; prepare your research briefing

- Nov 16: research briefings
- Nov 18: research briefings
- Nov 20: research briefings

WEEK FOURTEEN: FALL BREAK

WEEK FIFTEEN: Research Briefings

Self-selected research reading; prepare your research briefing

- Nov 30: research briefings
- Dec 2: research briefings
- Dec 4: research briefings

WEEK SIXTEEN: Conclusions

- Dec 7: research briefings
- Dec 9: research briefings
- Dec 11: FINAL PAPER DUE, conclusions