

**Professor Chester**

**Office Hours: M 1130-1230, F 1045-1145, and by appointment**  
**chester@colorado.edu**

**IAFS 4500: Conflict and Culture in South Asia**

<cuboulder.instructure.com/courses/49700>

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, Kashmir, communalism, 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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New Haven: Yale UP, 2010)

Basharat Peer *Curfewed Night* (New York: Scribner, 2014)

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

*Available on Canvas:*

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

Honor Code, CU Boulder, "What Is A Violation?" <http://honorcode.colorado.edu/student-information/what-violation>

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

Michael Kugelman, "Why Pakistan Hates Malala," *Foreign Policy* (15 Aug 2017)  
<[foreignpolicy.com/2017/08/15/why-pakistan-hates-malala/](http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/08/15/why-pakistan-hates-malala/)>

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: SUP, 2009) 13-19, 137-170, 219-254

Aatish Taseer, "In India, a Name Is Rarely Just a Name" *New York Times*, 26 Jul 2017

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.

**POLICY PAPER—SEP 30**

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 14**

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)—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%). 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 (listed above) 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**

I will 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. See [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details. If you have a conflict with exams, assignments, or class meetings because of religious obligations, please let me know at least two weeks in advance. We will work together to arrange appropriate accommodations.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me your accommodation 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 in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located at [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website and discuss your needs with me.

#### **DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination, or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

#### **PLAGIARISM AND THE HONOR CODE**

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructor in involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

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). 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.

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 Honor Code violations 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, ask me.

**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, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, religion, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, and political philosophy. 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. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct.

WEEK ONE: Introduction and Historical Context

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

- Aug 26: course introduction
- Aug 28: introduction to South Asia
- Aug 30: introduction to South Asia, cont.

WEEK TWO: Religion and Gender in Pakistan

Reading: Yousafzai, Kugelman

- Sep 2: LABOR DAY (no class)
- Sep 4: South Asian religions, reading discussion
- Sep 6: Pashtun culture, discussion of related current events

WEEK THREE: Taliban I

Rashid 1-104

- Sep 9: Afghan history and current status
- Sep 11: reading discussion
- Sep 13: student-led current events discussion

WEEK FOUR: Taliban II

Rashid 105-206

- Sep 16: variations on the veil
- Sep 18: career services presentation
- Sep 20: student-led current events discussion

WEEK FIVE: The Future of Afghanistan

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

- Sep 21: evaluating policy recommendations
- Sep 25: reading discussion
- Sep 27: student-led current events discussion

WEEK SIX: Communalism and Fundamentalism

*Policy paper due at beginning of class on Mon*

HRW, “We Have No Orders to Save You”; Ganguly, “Crisis of Indian Secularism”

- Sep 30: Gujarat massacres
- Oct 2: reading discussion
- Oct 4: student-led current events discussion

WEEK SEVEN: Gender in India

Agnes, Chandra, Dutta, Mohanty, Roychowdhury, Taseer

- Oct 7: the Gulabi Gang and gender in India
- Oct 9: reading discussion
- Oct 11: student-led current events discussion

WEEK EIGHT: Kashmir I

*Book review due at beginning of class on Mon*

Peer 1-106, watch *Haider* (available via Canvas)

- Oct 14: Kashmir, reading and film discussion
- Oct 16: Kashmir, reading and film discussion
- Oct 18: student-led current events discussion

WEEK NINE: Kashmir II

Peer 107-221, Sagan 13-19 (optional: Sagan 137-170, 219-254)

- Oct 21: nuclear security, reading discussion
- Oct 23: nuclear security, reading discussion
- Oct 25: the art of the briefing, student-led current events discussion

WEEK TEN: Research Meetings

*Prepare for your research meeting*

- 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
- Nov 1: one-on-one research meetings with Prof. Chester in HLMS 225

WEEK ELEVEN: Tools for Research

- Nov 4: library visit (meet in Norlin E113)
- Nov 6: writing discussion
- Nov 8: writing discussion

WEEK TWELVE: Research Briefings

*Self-selected research reading; prepare your research briefing*

- Nov 11: writing workshop
- Nov 13: research briefings
- Nov 15: research briefings

WEEK THIRTEEN: Research Briefings

*Self-selected research reading; prepare your research briefing*

- Nov 18: research briefings
- Nov 20: research briefings
- Nov 22: research briefings

WEEK FOURTEEN: FALL BREAK

WEEK FIFTEEN: Research Briefings

*Self-selected research reading; prepare your research briefing*

- Dec 2: in-class time for FCQs, research briefings
- Dec 4: research briefings
- Dec 6: research briefings

WEEK SIXTEEN: Conclusions

*Final paper due at beginning of class on Wed*

- Dec 9: research briefings
- Dec 11: final paper due, conclusions
- Dec 13: READING DAY (no class)