

**Professor Chester**  
**Please Email for Office Hours**  
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**IAFS 4500: Conflict and Culture in South Asia**

<<https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/57626>>

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.

Within this regional context, students will acquire and develop skills that they can apply more broadly, in other courses, in graduate work, and in life beyond the classroom. These skills include:

- 1) distinguishing between reliable and unreliable sources of information;
- 2) evaluating, interpreting, and synthesizing evidence;
- 3) developing the ability to give a convincing briefing;
- 4) building and refining an analytical argument.

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—FEB 25**

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—MAR 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—APR 9-28**

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

**FINAL POLICY PAPER (15-20 pages)—APR 30**

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**

If you have a conflict with 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. 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. For each class, check with your faculty member in advance so that you are aware of their specific requirements for accommodating religious observances. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services as soon as possible (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that I can address your needs. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). 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.

**SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, &/OR RELATED RETALIATION**

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, or 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 the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the 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. The intention of this policy is to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

**PLAGIARISM AND THE HONOR CODE**

A key element of the university Honor Code is that CU students will not plagiarize (that is, use the words or 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.

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 instructors 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 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](#).

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, don't hesitate to 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 race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

### **PREFERRED STUDENT NAMES AND PRONOUNS**

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 policies at [www.colorado.edu/classroom-behavior-policy-0](http://www.colorado.edu/classroom-behavior-policy-0) and at [www.colorado.edu/osc/#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/osc/#student_code).

### **WEEK ONE: Introduction and Historical Context**

Readings: CU Honor Code, reliable news sources for current events in South Asia (see "South Asian News and Analysis" on Canvas)

- Jan 14: course introduction
- Jan 16: introduction to South Asia

### **WEEK TWO: Religion and Gender in Pakistan**

Reading: Yousafzai, Kugelman

- Jan 21: South Asian religions, reading discussion
- Jan 23: Pashtun culture, discussion of related current events

WEEK THREE: Taliban I

Rashid 1-104

- Jan 28: variations on the veil, reading discussion
- Jan 30: student-led current events discussion

WEEK FOUR: Taliban II

Rashid 105-206

- Feb 4: Afghanistan and Pakistan, reading discussion
- Feb 6: student-led current events discussion

WEEK FIVE: The Future of Afghanistan

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

- Feb 11: evaluating policy recommendations, reading discussion
- Feb 13: student-led current events discussion

WEEK SIX: Communalism and Fundamentalism

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

- Feb 18: Gujarat massacres, reading discussion
- Feb 20: career services visit; student-led current events discussion

WEEK SEVEN: Gender in India

*Policy paper due by beginning of class on Tues, Feb 25*

Agnes, Chandra, Dutta, Mohanty, Roychowdhury, Taseer

- Feb 25: the Gulabi Gang and gender in India, reading discussion
- Feb 27: student-led current events discussion

WEEK EIGHT: Kashmir I

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

- Mar 3: Kashmir, reading and film discussion
- Mar 5: student-led current events discussion

WEEK NINE: Kashmir II

*Book review due by beginning of class on Thurs, Mar 12*

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

- Mar 10: nuclear security, reading discussion
- Mar 12: the art of the briefing, student-led current events discussion

WEEK TEN: Research Meetings

*Prepare for your research meeting*

- Mar 17: one-on-one research meetings with Prof. Chester in HLMS 225
- Mar 19: one-on-one research meetings with Prof. Chester in HLMS 225

WEEK ELEVEN: SPRING BREAK

WEEK TWELVE: Tools for Research

- Mar 31: library visit (meet in Norlin E113)
- Apr 2: writing discussion

WEEK THIRTEEN: Research Briefings

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

- Apr 7: writing workshop
- Apr 9: research briefings

WEEK FOURTEEN: Research Briefings

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

- Apr 14: research briefings
- Apr 16: research briefings

WEEK FIFTEEN: Research Briefings

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

- Apr 21: research briefings
- Apr 23: research briefings

WEEK SIXTEEN: Conclusions

*Final paper due by beginning of class on Thurs, Apr 30*

- Apr 28: in-class time for FCQs, research briefings
- Apr 30: final paper due, conclusions