CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES IN SOUTH ASIA

PSCI 4028-200
2010 Summer Session "B"
M-F 9:15-10:50

Class cancelled

Instructor: Dr. Selma K. ("Sam") Sonntag is a Professor of Politics at Humboldt State University in northern California. Dr. Sonntag has been researching and writing about South Asia, focusing on language issues in north India and Nepal, since her undergraduate days. She received a senior Fulbright research award for South Asia in 1993-94. More recently she has been writing about identity and language in the call center industry in Bangalore, where she taught a course on South Asian politics and economics in the summer of 2008.

Office hours: Wednesdays 11:00-12:00.
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Textbooks:

1. Stanley Kochanek and Robert Hardgrave, Jr. *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation* (Wadsworth, 2008).
2. Assigned articles listed in the outline below that are available as PDF files.
3. Assigned articles listed in the outline below that are accessible *on line*. These are articles in *Heidelberg Papers in South Asian and Comparative Politics* (http://www.hpsacp.uni-hd.de/) and in the Indian journal, *Seminar* (www.india-seminar.com).

Description: In this course, we will focus primarily on India, the dominant economic and political power in South Asia. India is also the largest democracy, in terms of population, in the world. Its internal diversity is staggering. These characteristics lead to never a dull moment in Indian politics! As India now transforms itself into a global economic powerhouse, its recognition and image outside of South Asia are undergoing profound change. We'll examine the major political and economic issues in India today, in the context of the subcontinent's history and diversity. We will also take into account contemporary political and economic events and issues in neighboring countries.

Objectives:

- Students will be conversant with debate over the impact of colonialism and imperialism on post-colonial states.
- Students will be familiar with the structure of parliamentary democracy.
- Students will be knowledgeable about the diversity of South Asia, in terms of religion, language, caste, class, gender and region.

- Students will be able to contrast the tensions and complementarities between democracy and diversity in developing countries.
- Students will be familiar with the major Indian political parties and platforms and how the electoral system works.
- Students will be able to identify economic and development strategies such as import substitution industrialization, export-oriented industrialization, liberalization, and IT and BPO growth sectors.
- Students will be conversant in the debate over neo-liberalism and equitable sustainability in the context of globalization in South Asia.
- Students will be aware of the regional power structure in South Asia.
- Students will be familiar with the major political and economic issues confronting South Asian countries.

Requirements/Assignments:

- Mid-term exam: Monday, July 19. (30% of overall grade.)
- Final exam: Friday, Aug. 6. (30% of overall grade.)
- Research paper: Each student will choose an Indian state to research and write a report (approximately 5-7 pages double-spaced) on its socio-cultural demographics, electoral patterns and contemporary political and economic issues. (30% of overall grade). Due Monday, August 2.
- Participation: Students are expected to stay up on the readings and participate in class discussions. (10% of overall grade.)

Grading scale: 100-94: A; 94-90: A-; 89-87: B+; 86-83: B; 82-80: B-; 79-77: C+; 76-73: C; 72-70: C-; 69-66: D+; 65-60: D; 59 and below: F.

Policies:

Students with Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices .
If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html .
Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices .

Religious Observations: 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, you will need to provide me with a written request for accommodation at least two weeks in advance of the religious observation. I will provide the opportunity for a makeup exam or an equivalent assignment and arrange for an

increased flexibility in assignment due dates, etc. If class is missed to observe a religious holiday, this will not affect your participation grade.
See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html .

Classroom behavior: 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, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, 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 .

Discrimination and Harassment: The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs 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://www.colorado.edu/odh .

Academic Honesty: 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://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/ .

Course Outline:

Introduction: Conceptualizing South Asia
Tues., July 6

Main topics to be covered:

- South Asia as a geographical and historical region
- States in India

The Colonial Legacy
Wed., July 7-Fri. July 9

Main topics to be covered:

- Overview of British colonial rule (British East India Company, 1857 revolt, British Raj)
- Independence movement (Indian National Congress, Mahatma Gandhi, swadeshi movement)
- Partition (Muslim League, Mohammed Ali Jinnah)
- Constituent Assembly and parliamentary government (B.R. Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru)

Required readings:

1. Kochanek and Hardgrave, *India*, Chap. 2.
2. Jawaharlal Nehru, in Jawaharlal Nehru, *The Discovery of India* (Anchor Books, 1960), Part II "The Quest."
3. Partha Chatterjee, *The Nation and Its Fragments* (Princeton University Press, 1993), Chap. 2, "The Colonial State."
4. Ayesha Jalal, *Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 1995), Chap. 1, "The Colonial Legacy in India and Pakistan."

Democracy and Diversity
Mon., July 12-Fri., July 16

Main topics to be covered:

- Linguistic federalism (1956 States Reorganization Act)
- Regionalism (Khalistan movement in the Punjab)
- Caste (reservations policy and the Mandal Commission Report)
- Communalism (Ayodhya, Godhra)

Required readings:

1. Kochanek and Hardgrave, *India*, Chaps. 4-5.
2. Selma K. Sonntag, *The Local Politics of Global English* (Lexington Books, 2003), Chap. 4 "Subaltern Language Politics in India."
3. Ghanshyam Shah, "Introduction: Caste and Democratic Politics," in Ghanshyam Shah (ed.) *Caste and Democratic Politics in India* (Permanent Black and Orient Longman, 2002), pp. 1-31.
4. Robert Deliege, "Is There Still Untouchability in India?" *Heidelberg Papers in South Asian and Comparative Politics* (June 2002) (on-line: http://www.hpsacp.uni-hd.de/).
5. Christophe Jaffrelot, "The Politics of OBCs," *Seminar* #549 (May 2005) (on-line: www.india-seminar.com).
6. David Ludden , "Preface to the Second Edition," in David Ludden (ed.), *Making India Hindu* (Oxford University Press, 2005), pp.vii-xviii.

Monday, July 19: Mid-term: Short answers and essay question on readings and material covered so far in course.

India's Institutional Framework
Tues., July 20-Fri.., July 23

Main topics to be covered:

- Lok Sabha
- The Emergency
- Major parties: Congress and BJP
- Regional parties: BSP, Samajwadi, DMK/AIADMK, Akali Dal
- Coalition politics: NDA and UPA
- Minority governments
- Chief Ministers and Legislative Assemblies

Required readings:

1. Kochanek and Hardgrave, Chaps. 3 and 6-8.
2. Prakash Sarangi, "Voters, Institutions and Governance: A Theory and Evidence from the Indian Elections" *Heidelberg papers in South Asian and Comparative Politics* (Feb 2007) (on-line: http://www.hpsacp.uni-hd.de/);

India Shining? Economic Liberalization
Mon., July 26-Fri. July 30

Main topics to be covered:

- Nehruvian industrialization
- The license/permit raj
- Indira Gandhi's economic populism
- Agricultural sector (e.g., Green Revolution)
- Economic liberalization in the 1990s
- India's economic boom in knowledge-based industries
- The 2004 general elections

Required readings:

1. Kochanek and Hardgrave, *India*, Chaps. 1 and 9.
2. Deepak Nayyar, "Economic Development and Political Democracy: Interaction of Economics and Politics in Independent India," in Niraja Gopal Jayal (ed.), *Democracy in India* (Oxford University Press, 2001).
3. Lloyd I.Rudolph and Susanne Hoeber Rudolph, *In Pursuit of Lakshmi* (University of Chicago Press, 1987), Chap. 2, subsection "Bullock Capitalists and Backward Classes."

4. Ramachandra Guha, *India After Gandhi* (Ecco, 2007), Chap. 29 "Riches."
5. Vir Sanghvi, "Two Indias," *Seminar* #545 (Jan 2005) (on-line: www.india-seminar.com).

Mon., August 2: Research paper due.

The South Asian Regional Context
Mon., Aug. 2-Thurs., Aug. 5

Main topics to be covered:

- India as a regional power
- Pakistani-Indian relations and Kashmir
- Creation of Bangladesh and recent democratization
- People's Movement and Maoist insurgency in Nepal
- Civil war in Sri Lanka
- SAARC (South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation)

Required readings:

1. Kochanek and Hardgrave, *India*, Chap. 10.
2. Christian Wagner, "From Hard Power to Soft Power? Ideas, Interaction, Institutions, and Images in India's South Asia Policy," Heidelberg papers in South Asian and Comparative Politics (May 2005) (on-line: http://www.hpsacp.uni-hd.de/);
3. *Seminar* #605 (Jan. 2010) "India 2009" issue: articles on India (C. Raja Mohan, "Diplomacy for the new decade"); Sri Lanka (Jayadeva Uyangoda, "Sri Lanka post the LTTE"); Pakistan (Shuja Nawaz, "Pakistan's existential threat"); and Nepal (Yubaraj Ghimire, "Stalemate") (on-line: www.india-seminar.com).
4. Peter Ronald deSouza, "The Problem," in *Seminar* #603 (Nov. 2009) "Bangladesh Turnaround" (on-line: www.india-seminar.com).
5. John Mage, "The Nepali Revolution and International Relations," *Economic and Political Weekly* (May 19, 2007).

Friday, Aug. 6: Final exam: Short answers on readings and material covered in class since mid-term; essay questions more comprehensive of entire course.