

PSC 2125 - Politics of South Asian States

Introduction

This course unit covers some of the major trends and themes in the political change in the states in South Asia. It gives students an understanding of country-specific themes as well comparative perspectives. The thematic focus is on the challenges in state and nation-building processes, democratization and political stability. The course will finally draw students' attention to contemporary issues in inter-state relations in South Asia.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to provide:

- i. an understanding of the issues and trends in the recent political change in the South Asian states, with a specific focus on the processes of state and nation-building and democratization.
- ii. insights into different trajectories of political change in each South Asian country in relation to country-specific dimensions of change.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course student will be able to:

- i. Understand and identify the key issues that define the nature of political change in each South Asian state, and
- ii. Apply insights gained by studying South Asian politics to understand the political change in Sri Lanka better.

Course Content

1. South Asia as a geo-political region and brief political history South Asian states.
2. Different paths of nation and state - building in South Asia.
3. Challenges in democracy and democratization in Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Maldives.
4. Political change and military regimes – Pakistan and Bangladesh.
5. Diversity, democracy and the state – India.
6. Issues in transition from Monarchy to democracy: Nepal and Bhutan.

7. Religion and politics in South Asia- India and Pakistan.
8. Trends in inter-state relations in South Asia.

Assessment

Mid-Semester exam	15 marks
Assignment/ Presentation	15 marks
Class Attendance and Participation	10 marks
Final Examination	60 marks

Recommended Reading:

Acharya, Jayari, 1996, *Nepal's Rough Road to Democracy*,

Allen, Douglas (Ed.). 1993, *Religion and Political Conflict in South Asia*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Chadda, Maya, 2000, *Building Democracy in South Asia: India, Nepal and Pakistan*, New Delhi: Vistaar Publications.

Gardezi, Hasan and Rashid Jameel, 1983, *Pakistan: Roots of Military Dictatorship*, London: Zed Press.

Jaffrelot, Christophe, 2003, *India's Silent Revolution: The Rise of the Low Castes in North Indian Politics*, New Delhi: Permanent Black.

Jalal, Ayesha, 1995, *Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia: A Comparative and Historical Perspective*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Phadnis, Urmila, and Ganguly, Rajatt, 2001, *Ethnicity and Nation-Building in South Asia*,

Rupesinghe, Kumar and Mumtaz Khawar, 1996, *Internal Conflicts in South Asia*, London: SAGE.