

FALL 2018



Stony Brook University

DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

College of Arts & Sciences

POL/AAS.338: CONTEMPORARY INDIA - *History, Politics & Diplomacy*
This course satisfies the DEC Category 'J' & SBC category "SBS+"

TuTh 8:30– 9:50AM (Frey Hall 105)
E-Mail: harsh.bhasin@stonybrook.edu
Office hrs: Fri.10-12 Noon & 2-4 PM
(or by appointment)

Ambassador Harsh Bhasin
SBS Building – 7th Floor
Room S-747 (South Side)
Phone: (631) 632-7632

TA information will be posted on Blackboard

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will study the forces shaping India's post-independence history, domestic politics, and foreign policy. As the world's largest democracy, second most populous nation, and Asia's second fastest growing economy, its impact on the international scene in the coming years will be carefully analyzed. The course, taught by a former Ambassador, will also focus on emerging trends in India -US relations and impact of the Indian diaspora. This course is offered as both POL 338 and AAS 338.

Course Prerequisites

One previous course in AAS or POL; U3 or U4 standing

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course aims at demonstrating knowledge and understanding of a society or culture outside of the US and also the interconnectedness of the world, past and present. This outcome will be achieved through

- A rigorous analysis of the evolution of major events in Contemporary India ever since the attainment of Independence from British rule in 1947. The historical backdrop and political geography of India will be discussed in the early stages of the course before going on to the political, social and other significant events that shaped the country's destiny since the advent of the Republic in 1950.
- Analyzing the key factors that led to the country loosening its tight control over the economy in the early 1990s that resulted in the process of incremental economic reforms which led to the emergence of India as a key player on the world stage up to and including the advent of the new BJP Government in 2014 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Understanding issues critical to India's role in the world affairs, including her relations with the P-5, EU, ASEAN, Africa, Latin America and Japan, the emerging relationship with the US, the geostrategic concerns vis a vis China, Pakistan and international terrorism and her quest for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council will be examined in depth. India's role in multilateral groupings – UN, SAARC, IOR-ARC, MGC, etc. will be evaluated. We will also explore the role and influence of the 20-million strong Indian diaspora.
- Since Issues in contemporary studies are constantly evolving, students will be expected to monitor, on a day-to-day basis, major developments in India that impact on its global role in general and relations with the US in particular.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Make Up Policy

Issues in politics and diplomacy are constantly evolving, and hence for a sound understanding of the complex issues involved in contemporary area studies, regular class attendance is essential. With that in mind, 10% of the grade has been allocated for regular and punctual attendance. Only 2 absences will be allowed during the semester; thereafter a sliding scale will take effect, with more than 12 absences resulting in a 'F' for that portion of the grade. Two late arrivals (after 10 minutes of class opening) will be treated as 1 absence.

Required readings and/or assignments

Besides lecture sessions, this class will often be conducted as a discussion forum in which active participation by students would be mandatory, and indeed will be closely monitored for purposes of assessment and grading. Issues in contemporary studies are constantly evolving. Students taking up this Course will be expected to monitor, on a day-to-day basis, major developments in India that impact on its global role in general and relations with the US in particular. Regular reading of at least one major newspaper, such as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* or the *Financial Times (UK)*, and of a regional newsmagazine such as *India Today*, *Outlook India* or *The Times of India* is therefore strongly recommended. Online versions of all these publications available on the web. In addition students should also try to read *Foreign Affairs* or similar scholarly journal which are available in the Melville Library Reading Room or can be readily accessed on the worldwide web.

Assessment/Tests

Three tests in-class, together with regular attendance, will be used for the assessment of a student's work during the semester. The first test will be in the form of a fairly simple **Quiz** early in the course. The second test will require **short answers** and will be conducted around halfway through the course. In the third and final test, students will be expected to write two short essays in a **blue-book examination format**. One of the essays will be on a general issue related to Contemporary India and the other on a currently topical aspect of US-India relations. The quality of participation in class discussions as well as attendance will also be taken into account for determining the final grade. The break up will be as follows:

GRADING

I use my signature "10+20+30+40" formula for grading, based on three tests of incremental challenge, distributed evenly through the 14-week semester

Attendance: 10% (taken at the beginning of every class session)

Test 1: 20% (At the end of week 4) will be in the form of a **Quiz**

Test 2: 30% (At the end of week 8) will be in the form of **Short Answers** to questions

Test 3: 40% (On the scheduled date during the final exams week, as notified by the Registrar's Office, which will require the writing of **two one-hour essays**:

Essay I: 20% – On a general issue related to Contemporary India

Essay II: 20% – On a currently topical issue in US-India relations

(Depending on situational factors, some minor structural changes may be introduced in the above pattern of tests. If so, these will be notified in advance in class.)

CLASS PROTOCOL

All cell phones must be switched off before entering the classroom. No texting or other use of cell phones during class will be permitted. Laptops may be allowed in class even though I prefer that students take notes with pen and paper. Use of recording devices is not permitted. Any disruptive behavior that impairs, interrupts or impacts negatively on the Instructor's ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits other students' ability to learn will be viewed seriously and reported to the appropriate authorities in the University.

POLICY REGARDING RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

All student absences in order to practice their faith will be viewed as an 'excused absence', with no negative consequence. For the list of such holidays and dates, see the relevant SBU website.

CLASS RESOURCES

Blackboard: Stony Brook University uses a restricted-access Blackboard platform. You are expected to log in regularly (and often) at [http://blackboard/sunysb.edu](http://blackboard.sunysb.edu) to access the syllabus, check announcements, reference materials, reading assignments; and to check grades and assignments

Electronic Communication: Email and especially email sent via Blackboard (<http://blackboard.stonybrook.edu>) is one of the ways we officially communicate with you in this course. It is your responsibility to make sure that you read your email in your official University email account. For most students, that is Google Apps for Education (<http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud>). Please verify your official Electronic Post Office (EPO) address at: <http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/checking-or-changing-your-mail-forwarding-address-in-the-epo>. If you choose to forward your official University email to another off campus account, we are not responsible for any undeliverable messages to your alternative personal accounts. You can set up email forwarding using these DoIT-provided instructions found at: <http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/setting-up-mail-forwarding-in-google-mail>. If you need technical assistance, please contact Client Support at (631) 632-9800 or supportteam@stonybrook.edu

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS) STATEMENT

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and DSS. For procedures and information go to the following website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary>

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

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READINGS FOR THE COURSE: Besides any handouts that may be given out by the instructor from time to time, all students taking this course are advised to use the following books:

Compulsory/Prescribed Reading: **Contemporary India** by Katharine Adeney and Andrew Wyatt (ed.2010), ISBN 978-1-4039-4313-2 (Palgrave Macmillan)

Optional/Suggested Reading

1. **India Today** - Economy, Politics & Society by Corbridge, Harriss & Jeffrey(2014) ISBN 978-0-7456-6112-4
2. **In Spite of the Gods:** The Strange Rise of Modern India by Edward Luce, (2007) ISBN 978-0-3855-1474-3
3. **The Big Three** – The emerging relationship between the US, India and China in the changing world order, by Harsh Bhasin (2009) ISBN 978-81-7188-727-9

Course Schedule

While every effort will be made to adhere to the date-wise schedule indicated below, there may be minor changes arising out of circumstances beyond the control of the Instructor, such as, for example, inclement weather leading to cancellation/rescheduling of classes etc.

POL/AAS 338 – Fall 2018

Contemporary India – History, Politics & Diplomacy

Date Wise Lecture Content

Aug. 28	1-A	Course introduction, content & conduct; learning objectives; syllabus (Intro)
Aug. 30	1-B	Historical overview & geographic/geopolitical background (Intro & 2)
Sept.4	2-A	Gandhi & struggle for freedom, end of British rule, Partition of India (1)
Sept.6	2-B	Independence, Constituent Assembly, Adoption of the Democratic Constitution (3)
Sept.11	3-A	India's electoral system and structures of governance (3,5)
Sept.13	3-B	India's political parties, their evolution & present position in the center and states (5)
Sept.18	4-A	India's economy – Pre liberalization (explaining the slow rate of growth) (7)
Sept.20	4-B	India's economy – Post liberalization (including the IT and outsourcing boom) (7)
Sept.25	Test One	Counts towards 20% of your overall grade for this course
Sept.27	5-A	Indian Society: Social justice and empowerment, the 'Caste System', minorities (4,6)
Oct.2	5-B	Indian Society: Empowerment of women & protection of children (4,6)
Oct.4	6-A	Origins of India's Foreign Policy: Non-alignment and 'Panchsheel' (8)
Oct.9		MIDTERM (FALL) BREAK
Oct.11	6-B	India's relations with their neighbors (Except Pak) - bilateral and multilateral (8)
Oct.16	7-A	India's relations with Pakistan; the Kashmir question (8)
Oct.18	7-B	India's relations with China
Oct.23	8-A	India's relations with the US (pre-Cold War)
Oct.25	8-B	India's relations with the US (post-Cold War)
Oct.30	Test Two	Counts towards 30% of your overall grade for this course
Nov.1	9-A	India's relations with Russia (including the former Soviet Union or USSR)
Nov.6	9-B	India's relations with Europe (including EU, UK, and the Commonwealth)
Nov.8	10-A	India's relations with Africa and the WANA region
Nov.13	10-B	India's relations with Latin America and Caribbean nations (LAC region)
Nov.15	11-A	India's relations with ASEAN, Japan and Australia
Nov.20	11-B	India's quest for security - within the region and beyond
Nov.22		THANSGIVING BREAK
Nov.27	12-A	Mass media in India and the Internet revolution
Dec.4	12-B	Indians beyond the shores of India - role of the Indian diaspora
Dec.6	13-A	Last Class: Life beyond POL 338 – Careers & opportunities in international affairs
Dec.12	Test Three	8-10.45 AM – Two Essays - Count towards 40% of your overall grade for this course

*Please note that the three tests add up to 90%
The remaining 10% counts towards attendance*

Figure in brackets at end of any line entry indicates corresponding chapter of prescribed text