South Asia is a world region of growing importance which offers the student of politics the opportunity to engage with the greatest promises and the gravest problems facing humanity today. This course traces major political developments in India and Pakistan and their regional neighbors, drawing on a range of analytical perspectives and focusing mainly on the post-independence period. It will cover colonial rule, nationalism and the formation of the state-nations in the region, democratic and authoritarian transitions in post-colonial politics, the dynamics of politics and social tensions, political mobilization along the lines of religion, ethnicity, and gender and its varying results. Another focus will be on the connections between constitutionalism, rule of law and human rights as constructs and to pics for debate as well as their realities in the local context. The foreign relations of India and Pakistan with each other and with other important actors influencing the region, including inter- and intra-state conflict, will be the final focus in this course.

**Required Readings (available at the College Bookstore):**
Additional readings will be posted on OAKS (please ensure that you have access to OAKS and this specific course webpage).

Other readings may be assigned, and handouts and supplements may be distributed later in the semester.

**Course Learning Outcomes and Methodology:**

By the end of the course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of South Asian political systems including the respective institutions, processes, constitutions and the relations among South Asian countries;
- Demonstrate their grasp of the role of discourses on the rule of law, constitutionalism and human rights with reference to South Asian countries;
- Formulate and distinguish their views from those of others and defend their own views on issues;
- Demonstrate mastery of conducting research on a chosen topic.

To facilitate readings, there will be reading responses on the readings on roughly a weekly basis (about 350-500 words each) due in class. On several occasions, you will be required to participate in group and class discussions to further develop themes in our reading assignments. In addition to the final paper (3500-4500 words) and map quiz, there is a short (~2000 words) paper and a class discussion leadership. Guidelines/requirements for the papers and discussion leadership will be posted in the second week of term. Please, take note of these as compliance with them will be part of the exercise and will be considered in grading!

This syllabus, including the lecture schedule, readings, and assigned work and exams, is subject to change as necessary. Changes will be announced by email and on the course website on OAKS. It is the responsibility of each student to keep up with all readings and assignments and any changes.

Your grade will be based on the following criteria (percentages denote the relative weight towards the course grade):

**Short Paper** (Due: 6 October 2016) -- 25%
**Research Paper** (Due: 9 December 2016) -- 25%
**Mapping Quiz** (1 September 2016, in class) -- 5%
**Class Discussion Leadership** (various dates tbd.) --20%
**Participation** (ongoing) --15%
**Reading Responses** (once weekly; due on Tuesdays in class unless otherwise announced in class) -- 10%
**Academic integrity:** The learning community at the College of Charleston depends on mutual respect between instructors and students. Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding will handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board. Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid, copying from others’ papers, fabricating data, plagiarizing the work of authors in the field of research covered in a paper, and giving unauthorized assistance. Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor. Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php . Compliance with these policies is an important part of your learning process in this introductory course, and is therefore your responsibility.

**Disability Accommodations**
If you have a documented disability (learning or otherwise), and you need and/or believe you are eligible/approved for a reasonable accommodation to be made for you in this course, please contact me as soon as possible at the outset of the course, so we can design a solution that will help you be successful in this class. The Center for Disability Services is located in the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Contact: http://disabilityservices.cofc.edu or call (843)953-1431.

**Grading:**
Final grades will be calculated using the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assignment grades (insofar as they use a percentage scale) will also follow this grading scheme. Please, be a responsible student and take charge of your grade. If you want to know your current standing in class, inquire with me about this.

**Attendance** is required and participation is considered in your final grade. For some sessions, you will be handed or sent discussion questions about the readings by email, which you are expected to prepare for in-class participation. Your grade will be lowered if you have more than 3 unexcused absences, and excessive absences will result in further grade penalties and may include removal from the course roll. You are required to report your fourth and any successive absences with appropriate documentation to the Absence Memo Office at 67 George St. You are responsible for obtaining/retaining/studying all material, including readings, films, and lectures, whether you are present or absent from class. Extensions are not normally granted for assignments and late assignments will be penalized. Papers are due on the dates stated in the syllabus (upload to OAKS dropbox). Emailed or late papers will face grade deductions. Every day a paper is late, your grade will be reduced by 5%; a paper more than 4 days late is an automatic F. Paper drafts are highly recommended, and you may turn them in a week before the paper is due.

I also expect you to keep up with current affairs. Once this semester, you (and a fellow student) will tell the class something about what happened with regard to political issues in India/Pakistan over the past month or so as part of class discussion leadership. For this purpose, I recommend that you get your information from the following sources:

**South Asia:**

**Individual Countries:**
See country pages at: www.onlinenewspapers.com (ask me for guidance on the quality or political leanings of each)
Schedule, Readings and Assignments (Note: ISA refers to James Norton, “India and South Asia”, on OAKS)

**Week One: Mapping South Asia**

What characterizes the region we call South Asia in economic, political and social terms? Why should we engage with South Asia and on which terms?

*Tue:* Introduction to Course Content and Structure

*Thu:* Reading: Norton, ISA, “Five Images of South Asia”, pp.3-33 (on OAKS).

**Week Two: South Asia's Colonial Past**  


**Week Three: Politics in India – An Overview I**  

*Tue:* OKMLRK, chapter 2 (Political Culture and Heritage)  

*Thu:* OKMLRK, chapter 3 (Political Institutions).

+ Khilnani, *The Idea of India*, 1999. Introduction and ch. 1 (Democracy);

**Week Four: Politics in India – An Overview II**  

*Tue:* OKMLRK, chapter 4 (Political Parties and Leaders) + chapters 5, 6 (Groups and Demands, Conflicts)

*Thu:* OKMLRK, chapter 7 (Development Issues)

**Week Five: Politics in Pakistan – An Overview I**  

*Tue:* OKMLRK, chapter 8 (Political Culture).

*Thu:* OKMLRK, chapter 9 (Constitutional Structure) + OKMLRK, chapter 10 (Political Parties).

**Week Six: Politics in Pakistan – An Overview II**  

*Tue:* OKMLRK, chapter 11 (Conflicts).

*Thu:* OKMLRK, chapter 12 (Policy Issues)

**Week Seven: Politics in South Asia – The Other Countries**  


*Thu:* Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal – Government Institutions; OKMLRK, pp.251-263, 319-333, 386-400

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal – Elections, Parties and Interest Groups; OKMLRK, pp. 263-284, 334-347, 401-420 + DEADLINE SHORT PAPER NO. 1 (6 October 2016, printout, at the beginning of the class session)

**Week Eight: Subnational and Minority Conflicts**  

*Tue:* Adeney, K. 2003. "Constitutional Centring: Nation Formation and Consociational Federalism in India and Pakistan", *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*, pp.8-33 on OAKS.


**Week Nine: Democratization on the Subcontinent**  


Week Ten: Civil and Political Rights in South Asia

Week Eleven: Women’s Rights in South Asia

Week Twelve: Bonded Labor and Human Rights in South Asia
Tue: No class! Fall break.

Week Thirteen: Environmental Rights in South Asia
Thu: tbd.

Week Fourteen: The Kashmir Conflict, Nuclear Weapons and India-Pakistan Relations
Thu: No class! Thanksgiving holiday.

Week Fifteen: Foreign Policy, Domestic Politics and the Challenge of Terrorism (readings subject to change, please mind any updates by email!)

9 December 2016: Research Paper deadline, upload to OAKS by 5pm.