

**Department of Political Science
University of the Punjab, Lahore
Course Outline**



Programme	Diplomacy and Strategic Studies	Course Code		Credit Hours	3
Course Title	Strategic Stability in South Asia: Issues and Challenges				
Course Introduction					
<p>South Asia is beset with numerous and conflicting security challenges resulting in intractable, and also quite discernible, dilemmas not only at the interstate and intrastate levels, but also between human security and military security. With the overt nuclearization of the region in May 1998, world interest is again focused on South Asia. This course looks beyond these tests and explores a number of broader and prior questions. These include the way in which the political and social infrastructures of India and Pakistan affect regional security calculations, the waxing and waning of American influence on these two states. The nuclear tests themselves will be examined, and the emergence of an India-China-Pakistan nuclear triad explored. This course will also survey the existing literature on South Asian foreign policy and suggest where new or innovative research may be possible. This course will explain the concept of security both in traditional and non-traditional aspect and will focus slightly more on traditional aspect of security. For the relevance of issues and impact, Afghanistan has on this region we would also include Afghanistan in south Asian security issues and how it is impacting the region.</p>					
Learning Outcomes					
<p>On the completion of the course, the students will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be acquainted with the basic concepts and major debates about South Asia 2. Be equipped with sufficient knowledge of prevalent issues 3. Have a thorough overview of south Asia and Nuclear Issues that will help them in further, more advanced courses 4. Design a significant roadmap for future discussions and debates to enhance their intellectual caliber 5. Receive an impressive collection or reading and reference material to help them in future research projects and similar research based activities 					

Course Content		Assignments/Readings
Week 1	<p>Introduction to Strategic Stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Defining Strategic Stability: Concepts and Frameworks • Reading: Overview of Strategic Stability in International Relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Why South Asia? 	<p>Rethinking Strategic Stability in South Asia</p> <p>Gregory, S. (2005). Rethinking Strategic Stability in South Asia. <i>South Asia Strategic Stability Institute</i>, (3), 25.</p>
Week 2	<p>Historical Context of South Asian Strategic Dynamics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Historical Background of South Asian Conflicts • Reading: Colonial Legacy and Partition • Case Study: Indo-Pakistani Wars and their Impact 	<p>Strategic dynamics and nuclear weapons proliferation in South Asia: a historical analysis</p> <p>Bhumitra Chakma. (2004). <i>Strategic dynamics and nuclear weapons proliferation in South Asia: a historical analysis</i> (Vol. 489). Peter Lang.</p>
Week 3	<p>Nuclearization of South Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: The Nuclearization of India and Pakistan • Reading: Nuclear Doctrine and Policy in South Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: The Impact of Nuclear Capabilities on Regional Stability 	<p>A comparative study of nuclear doctrines of India and Pakistan</p> <p>Latif, A. (2014). A comparative study of nuclear doctrines of India and Pakistan. <i>Journal of Global Peace and Conflict</i>, 2(1), 129-146.</p>
Week 4	<p>Key Bilateral Relations and Conflicts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: India-Pakistan Relations: A Historical Perspective • Reading: Kashmir Conflict and its Strategic Implications • Case Study: Recent Developments and Tensions 	<p>India–Pakistan relations and the Kashmir issue (1947–2009): A historical perspective</p> <p>Behuria, A. (2013). India–Pakistan relations and the Kashmir issue (1947–2009): A historical perspective. In <i>South</i></p>

		<i>Asian Security</i> (pp. 65-82). Routledge.
Week 5	<p style="text-align: center;">The Role of China in South Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: China's Strategic Interests in South Asia • Reading: China-Pakistan Relations and the Belt and Road Initiative • Discussion: The Strategic Implications of China's Presence 	<p style="text-align: center;">China's 'regionalism foreign policy' and China-India relations in South Asia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Freeman, C. P. (2018). China's 'regionalism foreign policy' and China-India relations in South Asia. <i>Contemporary Politics</i>, 24(1), 81-97.</p>
Week 6	Sir Creek	<p style="text-align: center;">The 'Sir Creek' Dispute: Contours, Implications and the Way Ahead</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mishra, R. (2015). The 'Sir Creek' Dispute: Contours, Implications and the Way Ahead. <i>Strategic Analysis</i>, 39(2), 184-196.</p>
Week 7	<p style="text-align: center;">Indian socio-political aspirations and world-view</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pakistan's socio-political aspirations and world-view</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nuclear Flash Point</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What Nuclear War Could Do to South Asia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">McKinzie, M., Mian, Z., Nayyar, A. H., & Ramana, M. V. (2013). What Nuclear War Could Do to South Asia. <i>Hoodbhoy</i>, 2013, 267-276.</p>
Week 8	Arms Race (conventional weapons/nuclear weapons)	<p style="text-align: center;">Nuclear arms race in South Asia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jalil, G. Y. (2017). Nuclear arms race in South Asia. <i>Strategic Studies</i>, 37(1), 18-41.</p>

<p>Week 9</p>	<p>Afghanistan conflict and South Asia.</p>	<p>South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Basit, A., Bashar, I., Siyech, M. S., Mahmood, S., & Gunasingham, A. (2019). South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. <i>Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses</i>, 11(1), 33-64.</p>
<p>Week 10</p>	<p>South Asian Regional Organizations and Diplomacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: South Asian Regional Organizations: SAARC and Beyond • Reading: The Role of Regional Diplomacy in Conflict Resolution • Discussion: Effectiveness of Regional Institutions 	<p>Problems and prospects for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)</p> <p>Bishwakarma, J. K., & Hu, Z. (2022). Problems and prospects for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). <i>Politics & Policy</i>, 50(1), 154-179.</p>
<p>Week 11</p>	<p>Non-State Actors and Internal Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: The Role of Non-State Actors in South Asian Conflicts • Reading: Insurgencies, Terrorism, and Internal Security Challenges • Case Study: The Impact of Non-State Actors on Strategic Stability 	<p>Crime-terror nexus in South Asia: states, security and non-state actors</p> <p>Clarke, R. (2011). <i>Crime-terror nexus in South Asia: states, security and non-state actors</i>. Routledge.</p>
<p>Week 12</p>	<p>U.S. and International Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: The Role of the U.S. and International Community in South Asian Stability • Reading: U.S. Foreign Policy and Strategic Interests in South Asia 	<p>South Asian Stability-Instability Paradox: Another Perspective</p> <p>Sultan, A. (2014). South Asian Stability-Instability Paradox: Another</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: International Efforts to Promote Stability 	Perspective. <i>IPRI Journal</i> , 14(1), 21-37.
Week 13	<p>Emerging Challenges and Future Directions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: New Threats and Challenges: Cybersecurity, Space, and Beyond • Reading: Future Trends in South Asian Security 	Enhancing Cyber Resilience: Challenges and Opportunities in South Asia
Week 14		Ghafoor, W. Enhancing Cyber Resilience: Challenges and Opportunities in South Asia.
Week 15	Presentations	
Week 16	Student Presentations and Course Review	

Textbooks and Reading Material

The lectures will supplement discussions through books and online academic material. The objective would be to engage students in reading and listening to expert opinions to develop their own understanding of various concepts that are essential in the subject. The curriculum will not depend on a fixed set of readings and online lectures but will diversify to accommodate research articles and opinions as well as interviews to provide a broad spectrum analysis and discourse.

Recommended Books (material can be provided as lectures proceed)

- Hasan-Askari Rizvi, *Pakistan & the Geo-Strategic Environment: A Study of Foreign Policy*, 1993.
- Pervez Iqbal Cheema, "Roots of Conflict in South Asia", Unpublished Paper, Dec. 1998.
- Selections from Alastair Lamb's *Incomplete Partition* & Robert Wirsing's *Kashmir in the Shadow of War*, M.E. Sharps, 2003.
- Scott Sagan, "Why do states go nuclear?"
- Munir Ahmed Khan, "Nuclearization of South Asia & its Regional and Global Implications," *Regional Studies*, Vol. 16, No. 4, Autumn 1998.
- Samina Ahmed, "Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons Program: Turning Points & Nuclear Choices," *International Security*, Vol. 23, No. 4, Spring 1999,
- Sumit Ganguly, "India's Pathway to Pokhran," *International Security*, Vol. 23, No. 4, Spring 1999.
- Brig Naeem Salik, *The Genesis of South Asian Nuclear Deterrence*, Oxford University Press, 2009.

Teaching Learning Strategies

1. Relevant material will be provided beforehand to the class both in printed and electronic form to match with the course contents designed
2. Reciprocal teaching method can be implemented to allow students a chance to speak their mind and discuss their problems
3. Brainstorming sessions will be encouraged with instructional scaffolding to allow students to develop their intellectual capabilities before being introduced to technical subjects
4. Didactic questioning by the instructor will be a viable teaching tool to initiate small group discussions in a think-pair-share collaborative teaching environment.
5. Individual presentations may also be assigned to exclusively focus on students with learning difficulties or exceptional students with a potential to offer more to the class environment.

Assignments: Types and Number with Calendar

1. Week Four: Student report submission for previous lectures taught
2. Week Six-Eight: Surprise Quiz or Show-and-Tell Presentation on topics covered
3. Week Eleven: Research Report post-Midterms
4. Week Fifteen: Grouped presentations of Poster Competition on topics assigned

Assessment

Sr. No.	Elements	Weightage	Details
1.	Midterm Assessment	35%	Written Assessment at the mid-point of the semester.
2.	Formative Assessment	25%	Continuous assessment includes: Classroom participation, assignments, presentations, viva voce, attitude and behavior, hands-on-activities, short tests, projects, practical, reflections, readings, quizzes etc.
3.	Final Assessment	40%	Written Examination at the end of the semester. It is mostly in the form of a test, but owing to the nature of the course the teacher may assess their students based on term paper, research proposal development, field work and report writing etc.