

DC Semester Program

Fall 2016

Nation-Building and Conflict-Resolution in Asia

Taught by Professor Chitrlekha Zutshi

The purpose of this semester is to study Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka from the perspective of nation-building and conflict-resolution. We will examine the different forms of government in these countries and the variety of nationalisms that led to their establishment in the 20th century. We will also examine the key issues that have led to conflicts in this region, such as the Cold War, nationalist movements, religious identities, globalization, women's rights, the War on Terror, as well as the variety of possible paths for the resolution of these conflicts. In particular, we will consider America's role, both in terms of exacerbating conflicts as well as providing avenues for building sustainable peace in the region. Close contact with experts, scholars and policy makers will allow us to consider how knowledge regarding South Asia is produced and implemented in the American foreign policy context.

Washington Program Internship

- *6 credit hours: INTR 499*

Students will have the opportunity to work at a wide variety of Washington institutions that focus on the region, including: think tanks like **Brookings Institution** and **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**; organizations like **American Red Cross**, **Human Rights Watch**, and **U.S.-India Business Council**; institutions like **Women's Foreign Policy Group** and **Atlantic Council**; media outlets like **NPR**, **PBS**, and **CNN**; and federal agencies such as **Library of Congress**, **U.S. Department of State**, **Senate Foreign Relations Committee** and **House Foreign Affairs Committee**. Students will be graded on academic work completed in association with their internships.

War and Peace in Postcolonial South Asia

- *4 credit hours: HIST 311 / AMES 390*

This course surveys the politics of South Asia in the post-independence period (1947-Present) from the perspective of war and peace. Why did India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka follow such diverse political trajectories in this period, with some adhering to various levels of democratic government to others falling into forms of authoritarianism? What role did the legacy of colonialism and nationalism play in this differential emphasis on elected versus non-elected institutions of state and civil society? How did global politics in the cold war period, particularly in terms of American and Russian interests in the region, lead to some of these differences? We will consider the causes behind the periods of war and peace in the region, and the role played by domestic and international political, social, military, and other institutions and practices in creating conflicts as well as in establishing enduring peace.

Nation-Building and Conflict-Resolution

- *4 credit hours: HIST 490C / INRL 390*

This course features guest speakers from the D.C.-based policy-making and practitioner communities who are actively engaged in nation-building and conflict-resolution efforts in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Through conversations and site visits, we will explore elements and challenges of their work, and evaluate their impact on domestic affairs in those countries, and on American responses to current events. In the process, we will examine how knowledge about Asia, and Asian conflicts in particular, is generated in the American context.