The course introduces students to political change in South Asia. It considers patterns of state formation, democratic and authoritarian tendencies, political parties and mass politics, identity politics, the determinants and consequences of economic and social policy, and patterns of social dominance and challenges to them. The course gives greatest attention to changes in India, the region's largest country, but also explores aspects of the political experiences of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. It begins with an overview of features of society, culture and the colonial experience. The exploration of postcolonial politics in the rest of the course is organized thematically.

Readings for different sections will be drawn from the following text, which is available for purchase at the bookstore:

Maya Chadda, Building Democracy in South Asia: India, Nepal, Pakistan (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2001)

Some of the other readings (marked with a (W) in front of them) can be accessed at the course website. A reader containing all other readings is available for purchase at the bookstore. The readings are also on reserve at the library. The readings should be done before the lectures and sections where they are discussed.

**Course Requirements**

Students will be expected to take a mid-term exam and a final exam, write a research paper, attend the lectures, and participate actively in the conferences. The midterm and the final exams will be based on the required reading and lecture material. The midterm exam will cover the first half of the course. The final exam will be cumulative in scope, with an emphasis on material covered in the second half of the course.

The paper should explore in depth some issues central to the course, using both required readings and additional pertinent materials. If you are uncertain about whether the paper topic is appropriate, you may consult the instructor or TA about it. The paper should be thirteen to fifteen pages long (double-spaced and typewritten) and will be due in class on November 23, one week before the last class.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more
information). L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity).

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté.

If you have a disability please contact the instructor to arrange a time to discuss your situation. It would be helpful if you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 514-398-6009 before you do this.

**Grading**

The course grade will be determined in the following way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students must write the midterm and final exams as well as the paper to pass the course. A supplemental final exam will be offered, and will be worth 35% of the total course grade. Extensions will be granted for the paper only if there are serious documented problems preventing a student from completing the paper on time. Students will face a penalty of 3 points per weekday that the paper is late without a legitimate excuse. No papers will be accepted after April 10, the day of the last class. Students cannot get incompletes in the course unless they face serious problems and provide appropriate proof. In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

**Plan of the Course**

Jan 7: No classes

**Part A: Society, The Colonial Experience and Colonial Legacies**

**I Society and Culture: An Overview**


II The Politics of Religious Identity


III Indian Nationalism


IV The Pakistan movement and Partition


**PART B: Postcolonial Politics**

I Democracy and Authoritarianism: The First Post-Colonial Generation


**II Secession: The Formation of Bangladesh**


Feb 13: Midterm Exam

**III Uncertain Democratization, Recurrent Authoritarianism: Pakistan**

Feb 18: Chadda, M. *Building Democracy in South Asia*: 67-108

**IV Democracy and Mass Politics: India Over the Last Generation**


March 3-7: Reading Week

**V The Economy**


VI Nationhood and Religion


VII Ethnicity and Pluralism


VIII Ethnicity and Collective Violence

April 1, 3: Chadda, M. *Building Democracy in South Asia*: 153-172


April 3: Papers Due

IX Gender Relations
