COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will study of the forces shaping India's post-independence history, domestic politics, and foreign diplomacy. 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 Indo-U.S. relations and impact of the Indian diaspora. This course is offered as both AAS 338 and POL 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 have 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 economic reforms which led to the emergence of India as a key player on the world stage until the first decade of the new millennium, and reasons for subsequent decline.

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 U.S, 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 mts 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 The Economist or the New York Times, and of a regional newsmagazine such as India Today, Outlook India or Asia Times is therefore strongly recommended. Online versions of these are 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.

Exams
Besides one Quiz early in the course, students will be expected to write a Term Paper midway through the course (2000-2500 words) and two short essays in a blue-book examination format at the end of the course. Of the two essays, one 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
Quiz: 15% (At the end of week 3 or 4)
Mid-Term Paper: 20% (At the end of week 6 or 7)
Essay I: 20% (During Finals Week) – On a general issue related to Contemporary India
Essay II: 20% (During Finals Week) – On a currently topical issue in US-India relations
Class participation: 15% (may include debate/presentation on a critical current issue)
Attendance: 10%

(N.B: Please note that no mix-n-match will be allowed in any form whatsoever. For example, if you miss the quiz, you simply lose the grade and cannot substitute it with a writing assignment, or seek permission to write 1 or 2 papers in lieu of the two Blue Book exam essays)

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.

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 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.sotonby.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.

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:


Optional/Suggested Reading

Course Schedule

Week 1
Introduction (Prescribed Text: Part I & II - Chapters 1 to 5)

A. A brief background to the recent history and political geography of India. Why the study of India is important to an understanding of global developments in general and Asia in particular?
(Each participant would be expected at this introductory session to outline why he/she has enrolled for the Course and their expectation from the course)
B. Brief historical timeline of India, charting its evolution into a multi-ethnic, multilingual, multicultural, multi-religious and secular, democratic entity today.

Week 2
Partition & the new Constitution (Prescribed Text: Chapters 6 - 9)

A. The end of British rule and partition of India (1947); Role of Mahatma Gandhi in the Freedom struggle
B. Setting up of the Constituent Assembly, and adoption of the democratic constitution in 1950.

Week 3
Polity: The Democratic experiment (Prescribed Text: Chapters 9-11)

A. Electoral System & the commitment to Democracy
B. Political parties and their evolution (The Congress & the Opposition)

Week 4
The Economy: Pre and post-liberalization (Class Notes)

A. Pre-Reform: The Nehru legacy (1947-65) & after (1965-91)
B. Post-Reform: The post-1991 liberalization & globalization

---------------------------------QUIZ----------------------------------

Week 5
Society: Social Justice & Empowerment (Class Notes)

A. The secular fabric, minorities and the heterogeneous society
B. The uplift of backward classes and the empowerment of women

Week 6
Foreign Policy Issues - 1 (Class Notes)

A. The philosophical and conceptual origins of India’s Foreign Policy; Non-alignment & ‘Panchsheel’
B. India’s relations with her neighbors: SAARC & other regional groupings, Kashmir issue

--------------------------------- Short Paper Announced----------------------------------

Week 7
Class Debate or Issue Presentation
(Just before the Spring Break)

Week 8
Foreign policy issues - 2
(Class Notes)

A. India-US Relations: Issues & prospects
B. India-US Relations: Interactive discussion session
Week 9
Foreign Policy issues – 3 (Prescribed Text: Chapter 12)

A. Relations with China, including the 1962 War
B. Relations with the Russia, EU, Rest of Europe & Central Asia

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Short Paper Due-----------------------

Week 10
Foreign Policy issues - 4
(Class Notes)

A. Relations with South East Asia & East Asia (except China)
B. Relations with Africa & Latin America

Week 11
The quest for security
(Class Notes)

A. India & disarmament issues: CTBT, NPT etc.
B. Pokharan (May 1998) and after

Week 12
Resurgent India
(Class Notes)

A. BPO & the outsourcing boom
B. Open door policy and growing FDI inflows

Week 13
The diaspora etc
(Class Notes)

A. Role & influence of the overseas Indians: PIOs & NRIs
B. India’s growing stature in the world – potential factor for stability

Week 14
The Arts & Culture
(Class Notes)

A. Development of the traditional arts & culture; Cultural diplomacy, India’s film industry - the ‘Bollywood’ factor & its cultural outreach, (Possible screening of a typical recent ‘Bollywood’ film, time permitting)
B. Final Exam (Writing of two one-hour essays)

FINAL EXAM: Will be held on May 13 (Tuesday) from 11.15 AM to 1.15 PM