



EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE *of* PROFESSIONAL
and CONTINUING STUDIES

IAS 5940-111: Women and Gender in South Asia

Course Description:

This course introduces students to historical and contemporary issues relating to women and gender in South Asia. It carefully examines the complex social, political, economic and legal contexts in which gender issues are embedded and their impact on the status of women and gender relations across South Asia. Over the duration of the course, we will compare and contrast various South Asian countries (Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh) through the lens of topics such as women and the state, gendering work, family law, gender violence, and the role of women in politics. We will also examine the way women and gender have been thought about, from women's reform under colonialism in the Indian Subcontinent, to present day debates surrounding the role of religion, culture and normative gender constructions and how these shape women's lives in contemporary South Asia.

Course Dates, Format, Location and Hours:

Dates:	September 27-October 3, 2021
Format:	Hybrid: Course to take place via Zoom and Canvas.
Location:	Washington D.C.
Hours:	Monday - Friday 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: August 29, 2021

Site Director:

Name:	Ms. Frances Wolf
E-mail:	apwashington@ou.edu
Phone:	TBA

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor:	Bushra Asif
Mailing Address:	731 Elm Avenue, Norman OK 73019
Telephone Number:	917-3864245
Email Address:	bushrasif@ou.edu
Virtual Office Hours:	By appointment
Professor availability:	The professor will be available via email to students during the above listed Virtual Office Hours and other methods by arrangement.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

All course materials will be available on canvas. Access Canvas at <https://canvas.ou.edu>. Enter your OU NetID and password and select the IAS 5940 course to access the reading material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT. To optimize this learning opportunity for you and other class members, please read all the material for each class period prior to each class session.

OU Email:

All official correspondence from instructors will be sent only to students' ou.edu address.

Course Objectives:

The course aims to help students

1. Develop an understanding of the key concepts related to women and gender in South Asia.
2. Analyze the historical roots, particularly the role of colonialism, of gender relations and women's rights in South Asia
3. Examine the obstacles to gender equality in South Asia
4. Gain an understanding of contemporary issues related to women and gender in key South Asian countries.

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:**Class Attendance, Participation - 10%:**

Students are expected to have read the assigned readings before each class and to attend class and participate in a thoughtful and meaningful manner. As this is a graduate course, students are expected to actively participate in discussion and in leading conversations.

Canvas Discussions-40%

During the course you will respond to 4 discussion prompts which will be posted on canvas on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during class. Your posting in response to the prompt should be a 250-300 word edited essay. All claims and arguments should be supported by references to readings.

Final Presentation: 20%

Each student will give an 8-10 minute power point presentation on a topic of their choice related to the broad theme of the course. Presentations will be held during class on **October 2**

Course Final – Paper and Submission - 30%:

A final examination will be administered the final Sunday afternoon of class. During the previous class meetings, certain topics will be communicated to students that will be part of their final examination. The exam will only cover topics discussed in class or in the readings. The essay response will be open note and will be due **Sunday October 3** by the end of class.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

Schedule of Course and Assignments:

1. **Monday, September 27: Introductions, Course Expectations and “Women and Gender in South Asia”**
 - Kamala Visweswaran, 2011. “Introduction: Reconceptualizing Nation and Region in Modern South Asia” in *Perspective on Modern South Asia* (Blackwell Publishing): 1-10.
 - “Negotiating new Terrains: South Asian Feminisms”, 2009, *Feminist review*, No. 9: 1-8
 - Chandra Talpade Mohanty, 1988. “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses”, *Feminist Review*, No. 30: 61-88
 - Nivedita Menon, 2009. “Sexuality, caste, governmentality: Contests over 'gender' in India”. *Feminist Review*, No. 91: 94-112.
 - Amartya Sen, 2001. “The many faces of gender inequality”, *New Republic*, 466-477.

Zoom Meeting– 6:00pm to 8:30pm

2. Tuesday, September 28: Colonialism, Nationalism, Partition and the “Woman Question”

- Lata Mani, 1987 “Contentious Traditions: The Debate on Sati in Colonial India” *Cultural Critique* 7: 119-156
- Tanika Sarkar, 2000. “A Prehistory of Rights: The Age of Consent Debate in Colonial Bengal” *Feminist Studies*, Vol 26, Issue 3: 601-622
- Suruchi Thapar, 1993 “Women as Activists, Women as Symbols: A Study of the Indian Nationalist Movement,” *Feminist Review* 44: 81-96
- Urvashi Butalia, 2000. *The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India* (Durham: Duke University Press): 3-20, 55-77
- Ritu Menon and Kamla Bhasin, 1996. “Abducted Women, the State and Questions of Honor,” in *Embodied Violence: Communalizing Women’s Sexuality in South Asia*, ed. Kumari Jayawardena and Malathi de Alwis (Chicago: University of Chicago Press): 1-30

Zoom Meeting and Canvas Discussion– 6:00pm to 8:30pm

3. Wednesday, September 29: Women and the Post-colonial State

- Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal, 1997. *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy* (New York: Oxford University Press): 201-219.
- Eleanor Newbiggin, 2010. “A post-colonial patriarchy: Representing Family in the Indian Nation State” *Modern Asian Studies*, Volume 44: 121-144
- Rajeswari Sundar Rajan, 2003. *The Scandal of the State*, Chapter 1 (Duke University Press): 1-37
- Anita Weiss, 2010 “Islamic Influences on Socio-Legal Conditions of Pakistani Women” in *Islam and Society in Pakistan* ed., Magnus Marsden (Oxford University Press): 52-56
- Naila Kabeer, 2011, “The Quest for National Identity: Women, Islam and the State in Bangladesh”, in *Perspective on Modern South Asia* (Blackwell Publishing): 139-154
- Shahnaz Khan, 2003. “Zina and the Moral regulation of Pakistani women”, *Feminist Review*, No. 75: 75-100

Zoom Meeting and Canvas Discussion– 6:00pm to 8:30pm

4. Thursday, September 30: Gender Violence

- Bushra Asif, 2014, “The Price of Honor” *Himal SouthAsian* <https://himalmag.com/price-honour/>
- Shilpa Phadke, 2013. “Unfriendly Bodies, Hostile Cities,” *Economic & Political Weekly* 48: 50-59.
- Krupa Shandilya, 2015 “Nirbhaya’s Body: The Politics of Protest in the Aftermath of the Delhi Gang Rape” *Gender and History*, Vol 27, Issue 2
- Nivedita Menon 200. “Abortion: When pro-choice is anti-woman” in *Recovering Subversion: Feminist Politics Beyond the Law* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press) :66-105
- T Wimpelmann, 2015 “One step forward and many to the side: combating gender violence in Afghanistan”, *Women Studies International Forum* (Volume 51)
- Film: “Honor killings: A girl in the river”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDn5QcrwqDA>

Zoom Meeting and Canvas Discussion– 6:00pm to 8:30pm

5. Friday, October 1: Female Activism and Political Participation

- Siera Tamang, 2009 “The Politics of conflict and difference: Women’s Movement in Nepal, *Feminist Review* 91
- Malathi de Alwis, 2009, “Interrogating the political: Feminist Peace Activism in Sri Lanka”, *Feminist Review*, No. 91
- Elora Shehabuddin, 2014. “Gender and Democratic Politics in Bangladesh” in *Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia*
- Zoya Hassan, 2010. “Gender, Religion and Democratic Politics in India” *Third World Quarterly*, Vol 31, No.6 :939-954
- Rounaq Jahan, 2007, “Women in South Asian Politics”, *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 9, No. 3: 848-870
- Adele Stan, 2007. “Benazir Bhutto: An imperfect Feminist” at: <http://prospect.org/article/benazir-bhutto-imperfect-feminist>

Zoom Meeting and Canvas Discussion– 6:00pm to 8:30pm

6. Saturday October 2: Course wrap up and Presentations

Zoom Meeting – 8:00am to 4:30pm

7. Sunday October 3: Final Exam

Answer ONE of the following:

- Drawing on Butalia (2000) and Menon and Bhasin (1996) discuss how the partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947 impacted women
- What was the socio-legal impact of Islamization on the status and rights of women in Pakistan and Bangladesh?
- Using examples from ONE South Asian country examine the role of women in politics (both as politicians and as voters) and analyze its impact on women’s rights and gender relations in that country.

Zoom Meeting- 8:00am to 12:00pm

Policy for Late Work:

Please contact the professor regarding his/her policy for late work

Attendance Policy:

In addition to interaction via Canvas and email contact, students are required to contact the instructor via email or telephone **before** the beginning of the course term for an initial briefing. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Canvas, although students may contact the instructor via telephone, postal mail, email, or fax as needed

Incomplete Grade Policy:

A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

Technical Support Information:

If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: <http://webapps.ou.edu/it/> or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended making the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

OU faculty will submit grades online through ONE not later than 30 days after the course end date. Course end dates are approximately one calendar month after the final seminar date on this syllabus and are provided on the official scheduling website for reference.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc...; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at <http://studentconduct.ou.edu/>

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact the Professor as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html>.

Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office's website at <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html>

Course Policies

Extended Campus (also and formerly known as Advanced Programs) policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are e/mailed to the professor for the course. Neither duplicating services nor office supplies are provided.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about OU Extended Campus, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

INSTRUCTOR VITA

Name: Bushra Asif

Education

PhD Candidate (ABD), Department of Political Science, University of Chicago
Dissertation “*Sanctioning Subordination: The Politics of Gender Law Promulgation and Reform in Pakistan*”

MPhil. Development Studies, Cambridge University, UK.
2001-02

M.Sc. International Relations, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan.
1999

Current Positions

Associate Director Programs, Graduate College, University of Oklahoma
Adjunct Instructor, Department of International and Area Studies Spring 2018-to date

Frequently Taught Courses

IAS 3003: Women, War and Gender
IAS 30000: Women’s Rights in the Developing World
IAS 3523: Women and Gender in South Asia

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

Women and Gender in South Asia
Gender law promulgation and Reform
Women’s Rights in the Developing World
State and Society in Pakistan

Representative Publications and Presentations

“Pakistan in 2014” with Aqil Shah, *Asian Survey*, March 2015

“Role of Islam in Pakistan”, Pakistan Country Profile for *Islamopedia Online*, Joint Program of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Islamic Legal Studies Program, Harvard University, Cambridge

“How Independent is Azad Jammu and Kashmir” in Bushra Asif et al. eds. *Kashmir: New Voices, New Approaches* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, January 2006).

“Afghanistan: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back,” *Foreign Policy in Focus*, Silver City, NM & Washington, DC, April 8, 2004.

“Pakistan: Parliamentary Elections and after,” *South Asia Monitor*, CSIS (Washington, DC, January 01, 2004). Online at <www.csis.org/saprog/monitor.cfm>

“Local Government Reforms in Pakistan”, CSIS (Washington, DC: December 01, 2003). Online at <www.csis/saprog/index.cfm>.

“Forced Migration as a Threat to Human Security: The Case of Afghan Refugee Women” in *Cross Currents: A Pakistan-India Joint Symposium on Regional Security* (Colombo: Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, August 2001), pp.67-73.

Representative Honors and Awards Received

Doctoral Dissertation fellowship, 2010, University of Chicago

Shell Centenary Chevening Scholar 2001, Cambridge University, UK.

Chancellor's Merit Scholarship 1999, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Peace and Conflict Studies Scholar 1999, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden.