

**CENTRE FOR INNER ASIAN STUDIES
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

Course	:	PhD
Course Title	:	Ethnicity, Religion and Politics in Afghanistan
Course Teacher	:	Ambrish Dhaka
Credits	:	02 (Four only)
Semester	:	WINTER SEMESTER
Instruction method	:	Lectures, Web-Digital content, Seminars/Tutorials
Course duration	:	One semester
Contact hours	:	02 per week

Introduction

There are numerous tribes in Afghanistan, Pushtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Turkoman and several others. These tribes have been inward-outward looking at times. The political economy ranging from pastoral nomadism to sedentary agriculture is the faceted by Islam that sanctions or rejects any political formation of the Afghan state that fails to fall between these two brackets. The domestic polity of Afghanistan has been of significant interest to the great powers, who have often found it challenging to reconcile with the internal setup for their geopolitical goals.

Course Objectives

This course is the domestic component of Afghanistan studies. It aims at understanding the internal social-political aspects of Afghanistan that influence the external dynamics of the geopolitics of Afghanistan. The role of ethno-cultural relations across the country's geography has also influenced the power relations between groups beyond political boundaries. The religion of Islam has been fundamental in defining the state identity. The course work tries to explain this whole gamut of relations for better scholarship on Afghanistan.

Course Outcome

The student develops an interdisciplinary understanding of the subject and shall relate it to the international studies domain. The student understands the ontological and epistemological aspects of the phenomena. He uses this approach to model the questions for the research work. The student develops analytical skills with the qualitative study of the topic using ethnographic and phenomenological methods.

Evaluation method

The student needs to complete at least six assignments that would carry a weightage of 60 percent score, and the Mid- & End- Semester Examination shall carry a weightage of 10 and 30 percent, respectively. Active participation in class discussions adds value to the assessment of performance.

Units

I – Theoretical Foundations- Understanding Culture and Ethnicity, culture and ethno-symbolism, ethnic groups and the nation, cultural boundaries and territoriality. Historical-Geography: Greco Bactrian to Kushans, advent of Islam in Medieval period, cultural and civilizational linkages with South Asia and Central Asia.

II - Socio-Cultural milieu: Major ethnic groups, Islam and its major sects, theological structure in rural society, rural political economy and tribal polity, nomadism and ethnic conflict.

III - The State and Nation building in Afghanistan: State consolidation in 19th century and 20th century, Islam and constitutional evolution of the state, the PDPA and Communist reforms.

IV - Religion and ethnicity during the Afghan War, the rise of Taliban and militant Islam, ethnic fragmentation of the state-society, religious fundamentalism and social challenges, regional impact of Afghan social framework. Post-Taliban reconstruction of Afghanistan: humanitarian intervention and its success in bringing transitions to Afghan society.

Bibliography

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