Governance and Development in South Asia

Winter Semester 2019-20

Seminar Handout

Dr. Seyed Hossein Zarhani
Zarhani@uni-heidelberg.de
1. **Important Information**

- Seminar time: Wednesdays 14:00 to 15.30
- Seminar place: SAI Room 010.01.02
- First session: Wednesdays 30 October 2019
- Last session: Wednesdays 5 February 2020
- Lecturer: Dr. Seyed Hossein Zarhani
- Office: Raum 3, 1. Stock Voßstr. 2, Gebäude 4130
- Office Hours: Tuesday 14:00-15.30
- Email: zarhani@uni-heidelberg.de
- Seminar Website: [https://elearning2.uni-heidelberg.de/](https://elearning2.uni-heidelberg.de/) then Fakultät für Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften then Politische Wissenschaft
- Assessment: Attendance, presentation, and essay

2. **Course Description**

Since the 1990s ‘governance’ has emerged as a new academic keyword in political science, public administration and development studies. However, governance has different types of usages in social sciences, and there is no consensus on which set of phenomena can properly be grouped under the title governance. Despite this ambiguity, governance has become the main explanatory variable to explicate how politics and state-society relations influence the development policies and outcomes. Moreover, some scholars and international organizations consider governance and its ‘quality’ as the critical variable to investigate successes and failures in poverty reduction, security and service delivery.

The fundamental questions to be addressed by the seminar are: How central is politics to economic development in South Asia? How do political institutions as well as state-society relations influence policy choices? What is the role of institutional factors and elite agency in dissimilar economic outcomes in different South Asian states? How relevant are international aid agencies in the economic policy shift and economic performance in South Asia?

The seminar is divided into two main thematic areas. The first section explores history and theories of governance and the relationship between governance and development. After the introductory lectures, the second part of the seminar will deal with case studies and provide a critical exploration
of the interplay between governance and development in the South Asian States. The initial weeks of the seminar will focus on the definitions, concepts and the methodological concerns surrounding the governance as an approach to the study of politics of development. Subsequently, this seminar compares selected topics across countries: government structure, political culture, political parties, interest groups, election and participation, recruiting political elites, and government performances.

3. Prior Requirements

What is required is a commitment to South Asia and social science theory. Students are required to go through the readings mentioned just below the titles. This is essential. The supplementary materials are further readings for students who want to learn more about a particular topic. This material will be useful for research students, especially those who wish to present in a particular class.

4. Organization

This seminar is based on lectures, student presentations on the required reading, and in-class discussions. The first meeting will be a discussion on how we will run the seminar. The theory lectures will be given in the second and third sessions; then, the student presentations will take place in the next sessions based on the required readings for that week.

The second and third sessions focus on the conceptual and theoretical debates in comparative politics. This introduction should act as the basis for oral presentations and then essays.

5. Course Text

The seminar will consist of the reading of a selection of the academic literature on governance and development in the South Asian States, their institutions, structures, and process. There is no single text. No reader. For each session, one or two texts have to be read by all participants. They are the basis for a discussion in the seminar. The course is taught as a political science course; however, the approach is multi-disciplinary, making use of texts from diverse fields of study like public administration, political economy or public policy to highlight the complex nature of the phenomena.

Students are encouraged to ask critical questions and develop interdisciplinary reflections in understanding the different issues. Their respective diverse backgrounds and majors, as well as cultural experience and political knowledge, are highly valued.

6. E-learning platform

The seminar “Governance and Development in South Asia” is registered in the university eLearning platform. You will find it opening “Fakultät für Wirtschafts-und Sozialwissenschaften” and then “Politische Wissenschaft.” The enrollment key is GDS.A9708. All course materials and other details will be uploaded there. Students who desire a “Schein” must register on Moodle by the second week after the seminar begins (November 6 2019).

7. Class Organization and Presentations

There will be no student presentations in the first two sessions of the seminar, which will provide an introductory framework including a discussion of theories, essential terminologies, and review of key concepts. The allocation of presentation themes will be done on 30 October session.
During the rest of the semester, students will be expected to present at least once. Presentations must be between 20 to 30 minutes and should aim at answering a central question. After that, it will be a general discussion. Each session is allotted at least one, core article (or articles) that will act as the basis for the class discussion. All participants are expected to read the assigned article. Presenters are expected to draw on additional information and must provide their colleagues with a handout.

8. Schedule

First Week
Introduction and Organizational issues
30.10.2019

Second Week
Governance and Development: Theories and Perspective
06.11.2019
Essential reading
Supplementary reading

Third Week
Good Governance and Development: Rise and Fall of a Buzzword
13.11.2019
Essential reading
Supplementary reading

Fourth Week
State, Institutions, and Development in South Asia: The Indian Experience (I)
20.11.2019
Essential reading


Fifth Week
State, Institutions, and Development in South Asia: The Indian Experience (II)
27.11.2019

Essential reading


Supplementary reading


Sixth Week
State, Institutions, and Development in South Asia: Pakistan
04.12.2016

Essential reading


Supplementary reading


Seventh Week
Reading week: Class and Politics in the South Asian States
11.12.2019

Essential reading


Eighth Week
State, Institutions, and Development in South Asia: Pakistan (Politics, Military, and Development)
18.12.2019
Essential reading


Supplementary reading


Ninth Week
State, Institutions, and Development in South Asia: Bangladesh
8.1.2020

Essential reading


Supplementary Reading


Tenth Week
State, Institutions, and Development in South Asia: Sri Lanka
15.1.2020

Essential reading


Supplementary Reading


Eleventh Week
Aids, Loans and Good Governance and Development in South Asia
22.1.2020

Essential reading

Twelfth Week
Economic Liberalization and Subnational Politics in India
29.1.2020

Essential reading

Supplementary Reading

Thirteenth Week
5.2.2020
Elite Agency, Governance and Development in India

Essential reading

Supplementary Reading

9. Assessment and Submission Dates

Students wishing to obtain a “Schein” or Credit Points for the seminar would be required to:
- Attend in 80% session, be familiar with the core reading texts and actively participate in discussions. (2 CPs)
- Hold a presentation on one of the topics of the seminar and prepare a handout for this presentation, including, but not limited to, the core question, main points in a bullet-form and a selected bibliography. (2 CPs)
- Submit an essay (2 CPs)

In addition to regular participation and a seminar presentation, those taking the course for credit are required to submit a seminar paper (5000-6000 words for Master students and 4000-4500 words for Bachelor students) (by March 30th, 4 pm. The deadline cannot be extended. Only soft copies will be accepted.

Students wishing to obtain 8 Credit Points for the seminar would be required to submit a book review (1500 words).
10. Teaching Support and Student Feedback

As always, student feedback is essential to the success of the seminar, and your comments are welcome at any time. Please contact me if you have any difficulties with this seminar or if you wish to discuss your work and progress.

11. Seminar Evaluation

Student feedback is essential to the success of the seminar, and your comments are welcome at any time. Near the end of the semester, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire, which enables the Department to monitor the lecture and addresses any apparent problems or difficulties.

Please also contact me in the case of difficulties or if you wish to discuss your work and progress. In particular, please do not hesitate to inform me if a book or journal is not available in the library.