

**Course Title:** Ethnicity, Religion and Politics in Afghanistan  
**Course No:** SA 654  
**Total Credits:** Three (3)  
**Course Teacher:** Dr. Ambrish Dhaka

## **INTRODUCTION**

This course content has been designed to draw a systemic analysis of ethnic, religious and political factors that reflects compage of Afghan society. The inability to transform the traditional set-up and external influences weaken the statehood. The role of religious authorities in rural life has an overarching importance, thereby creating a dualistic feature with Kabul as a city-state versus rest of the nation-state. There are numerous tribes in Afghanistan viz. Pushtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek and other, who have been inward-outward looking at times. Their political economy ranges from pastoral nomadism to sedentary agriculture, with geophysical differentiations. The role of Islam has been fundamental in defining the state identity. The course work tries to explain this whole gamut of relations.

**INSTRUCTION METHOD:** Lectures, Web-Digital content, Seminars/Tutorials

**EVALUATION PATTERN:** Sessional Work and Semester Examination

## **COURSE CONTENTS**

1. Historical-Geography: Ancient times- Greco Bactrian to Kushans, advent of Islam in Medieval period, cultural and civilisational linkages with South Asia and Central Asia.
2. Religion and Socio-Cultural milieu: Major ethnic groups, occupations and demography, Islam and its major sects, theological structure in rural society, rural political economy and tribal polity.
3. 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.
4. Impact of 9/11 on Afghanistan: Rise of Taliban and militant Islam, ethnic fragmentation of the state-society, religious fundamentalism and social challenges, regional impact of Afghan social framework.
5. Post-Taliban reconstruction of Afghanistan: humanitarian intervention and its success in bringing transitions to Afghan society.

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