Jawaharlal Nehru University

Special Centre for National Security Studies

COURSE TITLE: STUDYING INDIA'S BORDERS

Course Number:	SN-706
Course Instructor:	Ms. Aayushi Ketkar
Contact Details:	Room No. 17, JNIAS Extn.; Email: aayushik@mail.jnu.ac.in
Course Credit:	03
Duration:	One Semester
Instruction Method:	Lectures, Tutorials and Seminars
Evaluation Method:	Assignments, Attendance/ Class Participation, End-Semester examination
Contact Hours:	One hour before and after the class

Course Description

The course maps the borders and border management practices in India – that is, ways in which frontiers are transformed into lines and boundaries, dividing populations, creating identities and, ultimately, leading to the broader discourse of the self and the other. Drawing from international relations theory, border studies, security studies, political geography and biopolitics, as well as reviewing a range of contemporary issues – such as migration, trafficking, counter-terrorism, surveillance – it engages with contemporary border practices starting with the modes of separation ranging from natural features, man-made barriers to instruments of social sorting in the digital age. It looks at the manner in which vested interests attempt to subvert them, challenging border security systems at all levels.

Course Objectives

- To develop a holistic understanding of India's borders
- To assess and analyse contemporary practices and debates around borders on the basis of theories, case studies and live experiences.
- To facilitate a nuanced and holistic engagement of security by looking at a range of actors, narratives and practices.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester students will be able to:

- Navigate and assess the nuances associated with India's borders.
- Study various theories and approaches on contemporary security issues and border practices and decipher the key stakeholders.
- Confidently work with interdisciplinary approaches in studying border.
- Identify long-standing border disputes, investigate them threadbare and suggest remedies.
- Engage with and analyse a range of empirical cases, practical examples and cultural artefacts in developing an in-depth understanding of the complexities of discourse creation and its impact on polity and society.

Course Outline

What's in a Border?
- History and Evolution of India's Borders
- Borders Vs. Frontiers
- Key Concepts: Delimitation, Demarcation
- Cartography: Problems, Prospects, Tools & Techniques

India and its Neighbourhood: Challenges and Prospects
- Securing India's International Borders
  - India-China
  - India-Pakistan
  - India-Bangladesh
  - India-Nepal
  - India-Myanmar
  - India-Bhutan
  - India-Sri Lanka
  - India and other continental & maritime neighbours
- Paramilitary Forces and their Mandate
  - Assam Rifles
  - Border Security Force (BSF)
  - Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
  - Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
  - Coast Guard
- Securing India's Territorial Waters

Non-Traditional Security Challenges to Borders
- Border incursion
- Cross-border terrorism
- Migration
- Drugs, arms and human trafficking

Border Conflicts and Resolution: Models, Methods & Mechanism

Border Village Management
- Engaging People and Border Communities, including cross-border networks
- Development, Connectivity and Integration Projects

Reimagining the Border
- Emerging Frontiers (Space, Cyber, etc)
- Trade, Commerce and Connectivity
- Perception Creation and Narrative Building: Role of Media
- Use of Technology in Border Management
- Managing Borders in a Borderless World (Demographic Dimension, Race for Resources, Soft Power Play)

READING LIST

What's in a Border?

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India and its Neighbourhood: Challenges and Prospects

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- Kanti P. Bajpai and Harsh V. Pant (ed.), India's *National Security: A Reader*, Oxford University Press: New Delhi, 2013.
- Chris Ogden, Indian National Security, Oxford University Press: New Delhi, 2017.
- Harsh V. Pant and Kartik Bommakanti, "India's national security: challenges and dilemmas", *International Affairs*, Vol. 95, Issue 4, July 2019, pp. 835-837.
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- Pushpita Das, "Coastal Security: An Indian Experience", *IDSA Monograph Series No. 22*, September 2013.

Traditional & Non-Traditional Security Challenges to Borders
- Sanjoy Hazarika, *Rites of Passage: Border Crossings, imagined Homeland, India's east and Bangladesh* (New Delhi: Penguin, 2000).
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Reimagining the Border
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