

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN ASIA



ASIA 300 With Instructor Zareen Taj

*Mondays and Wednesdays | 10:00 - 11:15am
Fine Arts Building #001*

This dynamic, story-driven course explores the bold, flawed, and complex leaders who have shaped the political landscapes of some key countries in East and South Asia.

Students will examine how different styles of leadership from charismatic revolutionaries to authoritarian rulers, including *transformative, transactional, charismatic, and failed approaches*, have influenced state-building, democracy, development, and civil unrest.

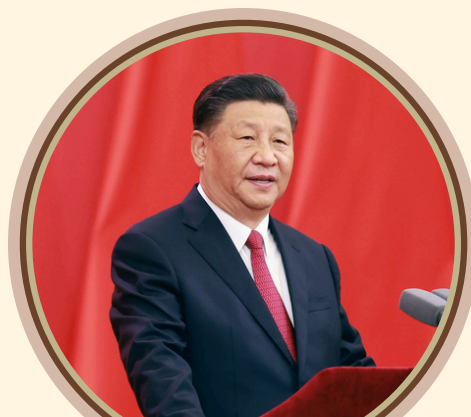
This course goes far beyond the textbook. Through biographies, speeches, memoirs, films, and scholarly texts, we will critically assess leadership decisions and their lasting legacies. Special focus will be placed on the post - Cold War era and Asia's rising role in global geopolitics.

What You'll Do:

- Analyze diverse leadership styles and their political consequences
- Investigate how leaders govern through crisis or contribute to democratic decline
- Reflect on why some leaders inspire lasting change, while others falter
- Engage in film analysis, collaborative discussion, and interactive activities
- Explore how leadership processes shape nations and history

Learning Objectives:

- Develop critical thinking skills to assess leadership and political changes
- Understand how leadership drives or hinders transformation in some Asia countries
- Examine the ideologies and legacies of key Asian political figures, such as: *Mahatma Gandhi, Narendra Modi, Sheikh Hasina, Kim Jong Un, Mao Zedong, and Aung San Suu Kyi*
- Explore the links between leadership, governance, civil society, and conflict
- Gain deeper insight into Asia's evolving role in global politics



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