

Course Code: SS- 833

Course Title: **Strategic Culture of Pakistan and Practice of Statecraft (Core)**

Credit Hours: 3

Course Description

This course examines the evolution of Pakistan's strategic culture and its influence on the practice of statecraft. It explores how Pakistan's history, ideology, geography, civil–military relations, nuclearisation, and external pressures have shaped Pakistan's strategic behaviour. A special focus will be placed on Pakistan's state narrative, strategic postures, and policy responses to regional and global changes. Students will also engage with comparative cases to situate Pakistan's experience in broader international contexts.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to:

- Introduce the concept of strategic culture and apply it to the Pakistani context.
- Examine the historical, ideological, and geographical drivers of Pakistan's statecraft.
- Explore the impact of civil–military relations, nuclearisation, and alliances on Pakistan's strategic choices.
- Analyse Pakistan's state narrative and strategic postures in regional and global settings.
- Encourage critical evaluation of case studies in Pakistan's decision-making.
- Equip students with conceptual and analytical tools to assess future trajectories of Pakistan's strategic culture.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Define and explain the concept of strategic culture in relation to Pakistan's national security outlook.

- Analyse the role of history, ideology, and geography in shaping Pakistan's practice of statecraft.
- Critically evaluate the influence of civil–military relations and institutional structures on Pakistan's strategic behaviour.
- Assess the evolution of Pakistan's strategic postures, including nuclear and conventional dimensions.
- Interpret Pakistan's state narrative and its role in domestic legitimacy and foreign policy.
- Compare Pakistan's strategic culture with those of regional and global powers.
- Apply theoretical and empirical insights to case studies such as the 1998 nuclear tests, Kargil, and post-9/11 alignment.
- Forecast Pakistan's strategic responses to future challenges, including hybrid warfare, AI, and multipolarity

Course Contents

Week 1 – Orientation & Theoretical Foundations

- Strategic culture: definitions, schools, and debates (Johnston, Gray, Booth).
- Statecraft: concepts, tools, and traditions.
- Strategic culture in South Asia.

Week 2 – Historical Legacies of Pakistan's Strategic Outlook

- Partition trauma and the insecurity dilemma.
- Wars of 1947–48, 1965, and 1971.
- Survival instinct in the national psyche.

Week 3 – Geography and Geopolitics in Pakistan's Strategic Culture

- Geostrategic location and borders.
- Kashmir and Indus water disputes.

- Arabian Sea and maritime strategy.

Week 4 – Ideology, Identity, and the State Narrative

- The Two-Nation Theory and Pakistan's ideological foundation.
- Islam and nationalism in state identity.
- Narrative-building in foreign and security policy.

Week 5 – Civil–Military Relations and Decision-Making

- Civil–military relations and its impact
- Decision-making institutions in Pakistan's statecraft.

Week 6 – Political Culture and Statecraft

- Role of political leadership in shaping security thinking.
- Governance patterns and policy continuity.

Week 7 – Nuclearisation and Strategic Autonomy

- Pakistan's nuclear journey: milestones and motivations.
- May 1998 tests and transformation of strategic culture.
- Nuclear deterrence as policy tool.

Week 8 – Pakistan's Strategic Postures

- Evolution of postures: minimum credible deterrence to FSD.
- Conventional–nuclear interface.
- Strategic signaling and crisis behaviour.

Week 9 – Alliances and External Influences

- Cold War alignments: SEATO and CENTO.

- US–Pakistan relations across decades.
- China–Pakistan partnership as a constant.

Week 10 – Economic Dimensions of Statecraft

- Security–economy nexus in Pakistan.
- Aid, dependence, and strategic constraints.
- Economic diplomacy and CPEC.

Week 11 – Internal Security and Strategic Culture

- Terrorism and insurgency.
- Ethnic divisions and social cohesion.
- Role of intelligence institutions.

Week 12 – Comparative Strategic Cultures

- Pakistan vs. India's strategic culture.
- Lessons from China, USA, and Russia.
- Distinctiveness of Pakistan's approach.

Week 13 – Case Study I: Pakistan's Nuclear Decisions

- 1974 Indian test and Pakistan's response.
- May 1998 nuclear tests: strategic calculus and signaling.

Week 14 – Case Study II: Crises and Statecraft

- Kargil conflict (1999).
- Post-9/11 alignments and counterterrorism policy.
- Pulwama–Balakot episode.

Week 15 – Emerging Challenges to Pakistan’s Strategic Culture

- Hybrid warfare, cyber threats, and AI.
- Indo-Pacific dynamics and Pakistan’s options.
- Strategic adaptability in a multipolar world.

Week 16 – Future Trajectories & Student Presentations

- Pakistan’s place in the regional and global order.
- National policy space in the evolving international system.
- Student research presentations and course review.

Reference Material:

Core Books & Monographs

- Feroz Hassan Khan. *Eating Grass: The Making of the Pakistani Bomb*. Stanford University Press, 2012.
- Stephen P. Cohen. *The Idea of Pakistan*. Brookings Institution Press, 2004.
- Hasan Askari Rizvi. *Military, State and Society in Pakistan*. Macmillan, 2000.
- Maleeha Lodhi (Ed.). *Pakistan: Beyond the Crisis State*. Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Zafar Iqbal Cheema. *Indian Nuclear Deterrence: Evolution and Implications for South Asia*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

Edited Volumes & Scholarly Analyses

- Lavoy, Peter R. (Ed.). *Asymmetric Warfare in South Asia: The Causes and Consequences of the Kargil Conflict*. Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Krepon, Michael, Moeed Yusuf, and Chris Gagné (Eds.). *Off-Ramps from Confrontation in Southern Asia*. Stimson Center, 2021.
- Lodhi, Maleeha (Ed.). *Pakistan’s Encounter with Democracy and Security Dilemmas*. Oxford University Press, 2020.

Journal Articles & Reports

- Fair, C. Christine. "Pakistan's Strategic Culture: Implications for Stability in South Asia." *Contemporary Security Policy*, Vol. 30, No. 3 (2009).
- Cheema, Zafar Iqbal, and Shahid-ur-Rehman. "Pakistan's Tactical Nuclear Weapons: Strategy and Implications." *Strategic Studies (ISSI)*, 2012.
- Tellis, Ashley J. "South Asia's Emerging Strategic Calculus." *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 2023.
- Strategic Plans Division (SPD), Pakistan. *Annual Strategic Stability Report*, 2023.
- Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). *Policy Papers on Pakistan's Strategic Culture and Security Policies*.
- Center for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS). *Policy Briefs on China–Pakistan Strategic Cooperation and Hybrid Threats*, 2024