Contemporary Indian Politics

Monday 0915 Hrs – 10:45 Hrs
Department of Political science - South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University
Instructor: Pralay Kanungo, DAAD Guest Professor
Email: pralaykanungo@gmail.com (Please Email for consultation/appointment)

(A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman, a doctoral student will coordinate this course. For your queries regarding this course, please connect to him on his email: mostafiz@uni-heidelberg.de)

Course Description

After independence India has adopted parliamentary democracy and has become the largest democracy in the world. While many postcolonial nations have failed in their democratic experiment, India presents a success story. But understanding and analyzing the critical components of this political journey in a plural and diverse country with many religions, regions, classes, castes and communities becomes a challenging exercise. The vibrant domain of Indian political process is fiercely contentious as it has to negotiate with multiple identities actors and institutions within a democratic framework in order to arrive at some kind of consensus. This course will critically reflect upon some core themes of contemporary Indian politics:

Course Objectives

The course aims to impart a comprehensive understanding of contemporary Indian politics to enable the students to:

- understand how ideas, institutions, actors and processes have evolved to shape Indian politics;
- comprehend multiple trajectories and contestations of Indian democracy and polity; and
- develop skills in research, analysis, presentation and writing on Indian politics.

Prerequisite

No prior knowledge of India is required for this class. However, the students should have broad interest in Indian society, state and politics.

Assessment

Class Participation + *Reflection Paper on any theme (1500 Words)+Class Presentation: (50%) &

*Reflection Paper will be allotted on the 4th May 2020. Each student is required to choose any theme from the syllabus. However, duplication will be avoided during the allotment. The student will submit the written reflection paper by 5th June and present this paper in class on 8-15 June.

Final Examination (Closed Book) 27th July 2020: (50%)
Online Teaching

Welcome to the Lecture course on Contemporary Indian Politics!
In these unprecedented times this course will be taught online on hieCONF and can be accessed at https://heiconf.uni-heidelberg.de/. As the online situation is still evolving, pre-recorded lecture/power points might uploaded on an appropriate platform- either hieCAST or moodle.
Room Link https://heiconf.uni-heidelberg.de/kan-gux-wqq
After connection we greet and then the lecture will follow immediately. The duration of the lecture will be of one hour. Then we have discussion time for about 20-30 minutes. In case of connectivity failure, you will listen to the second part of the lecture.

Course Schedule

Lecture 1 27/04/2020

Indian Politics: An Introduction


Lecture 2 04/05/2020

Caste and Politics: Scheduled Castes and Backward Castes

James Manor, “Prologue: Caste in Indian Politics”, in Rajni Kothari, *Caste in Indian Politics* [Revised by James Manor], New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2010.


Allotment of Reflection Paper

Lecture 3 11/05/2020

Region and Politics: Indian Federalism


Lecture 4 & 5  18/05/2020 & 25/05/2020

Political Parties and Party System


Lecture 6  01/06/2020

Tribes and Gender


Virginius Xaxa, Tribes in the Democratic Politics of India, Explorations, ISS e-journal, Vol. 2 (2), October 2018, pp. 3-21


Lecture 7 & 8  08/06/2020 & 15/06/2020

Submission of Reflection Paper (1500 words) & Class Presentation

Lecture 09  22/06/2018

Class Politics: Left-wing Extremism

John Harriss, ‘What is Going on in India’s Red Corridor? Questions about India’s Maoist Insurgency’, *Pacific Affairs*, 84, 2, 2011, pp. 309-327.


**Lecture 10  29/06/2017**

**Neo-Liberal Economy, Corporates and Middle Class**


**Lecture 11  6/07/2018**

**Media and Politics**


**Lecture 12  13/07/2018**

**Civil Society and Politics**


**Lecture 13  20/07/2020**

Concluding Class: Reflections/Review Questions for Final Examination

**Lecture 14  27/07/2020**

Final Examination (Closed Book)