

Contemporary Indian Politics

Monday 0915 Hrs – 10:45Hrs

Department of Political science - South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University

Instructor: Parlay Kanungo, DAAD Guest Professor

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(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 be 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

Atul Kohli, *India's Democracy: An Analysis of Changing State-Society Relations*, Princeton University Press, 2014, Conclusion: 305-18

Niraja Gopal Jayal and Pratap Bhanu Mehta(eds.), *The Oxford Companion to Politics in India*, New Delhi: OUP, 2010; Introduction.

Stuart Corbridge, John Harriss and Craig Jeffrey, *India: Economy, Politics, Society*, New Delhi: OUP, 2014; 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.

Ronojoy Sen, The Persistence of Caste in Indian Politics, *Pacific Affairs*, Vol. 85, No. 2 (JUNE 2012), pp. 363-369

Christophe Jaffrelot, 'The Rise of Other Backward Classes in the Hindi Belt', *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 59-1, 2000, pp. 86-108.

Gopal Guru, Liberal Democracy in India and the Dalit Critique, *Social Research: An International Quarterly*, Volume 78, Number 1, Spring 2011, pp. 99-122

Allotment of Reflection Paper

Lecture 3 11/05/2020

Region and Politics: Indian Federalism

Amaresh Bagchi, 'Globalisation and Federalism: Uneasy Partners', *Economic and Political Weekly*, 43, 38, September 20, 2008.

Louis Tillin, 'United in Diversity? Asymmetry in Indian Federation', *Publius*, 37, 1, 2007, pp. 45-67.

Harihar Bhattacharyya, 'Federalism and Regionalism in India: Institutional Strategies and Political Accommodation of Identity', *Working Paper* No. 27, May 2005 (South Asia Institute, Department of Political Science, University of Heidelberg): 1-28.

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

Political Parties and Party System

Yogendra Yadav and Suhas Palshikar, 'From Hegemony to Convergence: Party System and Electoral Politics in the Indian States, 1952-2002', *Journal of Indian School of Political Economy*, 15-1&2 (2003): 5-44.

Zoya Hasan, 'Political Parties', in in Niraja Gopal Jayal and PratapBhanu Mehta (eds.), *The Oxford Companion to Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press(2010):241-253.

Eswaran Sridharan, 'India's Democracy at 70: The Shifting Party Balance' *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 28, Number 3, July 2017, pp. 76-85

Christophe Jaffrelot, India's Democracy at 70: Toward a Hindu State? *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 28, Number 3, July 2017, pp. 52-63

Lecture 6 01/06/2020

Tribes and Gender

Stuart Corbridge, Competing Inequalities: The Scheduled Tribes and the Reservations System in India's Jharkhand, *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 59, No. 1 (Feb., 2000), pp. 62-85

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

Nandini Sundar, 'Adivasi Politics and State Responses Historical Processes and Contemporary Concerns', in Sanjukta Das Gupta and Rajshekhar Basu (Eds.), *Narratives from the Margins: Aspects of Adivasi History in India*, Primus Books, 2012.

Clots-Figueras, I, 'Women in Politics: Evidence from the Indian States', *Journal of Public Economics*, 2011 Aug, Vol.95(7-8), pp.664-690

John, Mary E., Alternate Modernities? 'Reservations and Women's Movement in 20th Century India', *Economic and Political Weekly*, 21 October 2000.

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

Sumanta Banerjee, 'Radical and Violent Political Movements' in Paul R. Brass (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of South Asian Politics: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal*, UK: Routledge 2010, pp. 382-398.

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.

Prem Mahadevan, 'The Maoist Insurgency in India: Between Crime and Revolution', *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 23, 2, 2012, pp. 203-220.

Lecture 10 29/06/2017

Neo-Liberal Economy, Corporates and Middle Class

Atul Kohli, 'Politics of Economic Growth in India, 1980-2005, Part I: The 1980s', *Economic and Political weekly*, (April 1, 2006): 1251-59. & Part II: The 1990s and Beyond', *Economic and Political weekly*, (April 8, 2006): 1361-70.

E. Sridharan, 'The Growth and Sectoral Composition of Middle Class: Its Impact on the Politics of Economic Liberalization', *India Review*, 3, 4, October 2004, pp. 405-25.

Rahul Mukherji, 'The Political Economy of India's Economic Reforms', *Asian Economic Policy Review*, Vol. 3, Issue 2, 2008.

Lecture 11 6/07/2018

Media and Politics

Thakurta, Pranajoy Guha, What Future for Media in India?, *Economic and Political Weekly*, June 14, 2014.

Sahana Udapa, Archiving as History-Making: Religious Politics of Social Media in India Communication, *Culture & Critique* 9 (2016) 212–230

Ravish Kumar, *The Free Voice: On Democracy, Culture and the Nation*, New Delhi: Speaking Tiger, (2018)Chap I: 1-31

Lecture 12 13/07/2018

Civil Society and Politics

Srirupa Roy, Angry Citizens: Anger and Politics of Curative Democracy in India, *Identities*, 03 May 2016, Vol.23(3), pp.362-377

Mitu Sengupta, 'Anna Hazare and the Idea of Gandhi', *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 71, 3, 2012, pp. 593-601.

Satanley A Kochanek, 'Corruption and the Criminalization of Politics in South Asia', in Paul R. Brass (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of South Asian Politics: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal*, UK: Routledge (2010): 364-381

Lecture 13 20/07/2020

Concluding Class: Reflections/Review

Questions for Final Examination

Lecture 14 27/07/2020

Final Examination (Closed Book)

