

**Department of Political Science**  
**South Asia Institute: University of Heidelberg**

*Course to be taught by Prof Suri for the winter semester 2018-2019*

*Course 1: Vorlesung*

*Time: Classes take place once in a week, on Wednesdays between 11 AM and 1 PM at the South Asia Institute: INF 330 / SAI R E11.*

Course title:

**Indian Democracy at Work**

Brief description:

India is the world's largest established democracy. That this democracy operates in a developing society marked by high social pluralism and high levels of economic backwardness of its people brings a distinct character to India's democracy.

This Lecture course deals with India's basic framework of governance and the working of various agencies such as political parties and Political leadership that breathe life into this framework. The focus will be on the points of intersections of the state, society and economy. We will analyse India's political process concentrating on certain key issues that dominate the India's political life in recent decades. Topics include institutions of governance, federalism, party system, leadership, economic reform policies and governance issues.

The aim is to enable students who are not very familiar with Indian politics to make sense of the noisy democracy in the large diverse developing nation, to examine the challenges India faces in the contemporary times and to arrive at a critical and balanced view of Indian democracy at work.

Course content:

Foundational values: Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles

Institutions of governance: Union, State, and Local governments

Challenge of federalism: Union-State relations

Social justice: Caste based reservations

Social identities: Caste and politics

Secularism debate: Religion and politics

Party system stability and change

Elections and shifts in electoral support

Leadership: Populism and autocratic leadership

Economic reform policies

Governance issues: Clientelism

The rise and consolidation of the Bharatiya Janata Party  
Assessing Indian democracy: How Indians view India's democracy?

**Readings:**

Select chapters from the following books and a few other articles in journals.

Niraja Gopal Jayal and Pratap Bhanu Mehta (eds). *The Oxford companion to politics in India*. New Delhi: OUP, 2010.

Subrata Mitra, *Politics in India: Structure, Process and Policy*. London: Routledge, 2017.

Suhas Palshikar, *Indian Democracy*. New Delhi: OUP, 2017.

Paul Brass, ed. *Routledge Handbook of South Asian Politics*, London and New York: Routledge, 2010.

Robert L. Hardgrave Jr. and Stanley A. Kochanek, *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation*, Boston: Thomson Wadsworth, 2008.

Evaluation: Presence and active participation in classroom discussions. There will be a written examination at the end of the semester. Teaching and the final written examination will be in English.

Students interested in attending this course may please register by sending an email to [k.c.suri@sai.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:k.c.suri@sai.uni-heidelberg.de)