Elections and Voting Behaviour in India
Organiser: Professor K.C. Suri
Thursdays 9:00-11:00
INF 330 SAI Z 10

Objective:

Studies on elections and voting constitute a major area of Political Science teaching and research all over the world. Students of Indian politics are interested in the ways in which Indian citizens exercise their vote, contributing to the success of India’s democracy. The course will relate various theories of voting behaviour to the Indian context by reviewing some major writings on India.

The course seeks to answer questions such as the trends in voting over the years and levels of electoral participation, social structural factors as determinants of voting behaviour, relationship between economy and voting, and gender issue in elections? Discussions on the theme will mainly rely on the reports of empirical research over the past few decades. We will also study some of the writings analyzing the results of latest parliamentary election in India.
Calendar and Syllabus:

3 May 2018: Introduction to the course

17 May 2018: Evolution of Election Studies in India

24 May 2018: Voter turnout and political participation

7 June 2018: Social structural aspects: Caste

14 June 2018: Social structural aspects: Class


**21 June 2018: Social structural aspects: Religion**


**28 June 2018: Voting and the economy**


**5 July 2018: Strategic / Tactical voting**


**12 July 2018: Women and elections**


**19 July 2018: Analysis of the 2014 General Election results**


**26 July 2018: Analysis of the 2014 General Election results**


**General guidelines:**

This is a seminar course. Students are required to go through the readings mentioned in the syllabus and participate in classroom discussions. I will provide a brief introduction to each of these themes, followed by student presentations of the select reading or readings in about 15-20 minutes and discussion. Students are expected to give a short note in about 1500 words on the reading soon after their presentation in classroom. This is followed by a full-length essay of 5000-6000 words to be submitted at the end of the semester. We will identify additional and supplementary readings on topics students choose to write a full-length essay.

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