

Political Parties in India

Organiser: Professor K.C. Suri
Mondays 9:00-11:00
INF 330 SAI R 317

Rationale and Objectives of the course:

Political parties are the principal agencies of democracy in any nation. How parties are organized and function is crucial for an understanding politics in general. Therefore, it is imperative for students of political science to study in depth the evolution of party system in a country; ideology, policies and support bases of political parties; party leadership and functioning; and how they win and lose elections.

This course enables the students to understand the crucial role played by parties in making Indian democracy work. It deals with the external environment in which they operate, how parties and party politics changed over the years as well as the way in which they function. It also deals with the ideology and programme of parties, their electoral performance, and support bases.

We will study India's political parties by drawing upon the theoretical knowledge that exists on party politics and party systems and looking at them in a comparative perspective. Thus the course aims to enable students to critically appreciate the success and challenges faced by parties in India in particular and parties in South Asia in general.

Calender and Syllabus

1. **30 April 2018: General introduction to the course. The nature of Indian polity and the role political parties play in it.**

2. **7 May 2018: The evolution of political parties in India during the British rule.**

Diwakar, Rekha (2017), "Parties and Party System in India", in *Party System in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi. Chapter 1, pp.1-36.

3. **14 May 2018: Emergence of the Congress 'system' and its breakdown.**

R.L. Hardgrave, jr. & S.A. Kochanek (2008), "The Congress System and Its Decline", *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation*, chapters 6, pp.269-313.

Rekha Diwakar (2017), "The Congress 'System' and Its Decline", in *Party System in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi. Chapter 2, pp. 37-65.

Kothari, Rajni (1964). The Congress 'System' in India, *Asian Survey*, Vol. 4, No. 12 (Dec), pp. 1161-1173.

4. **28 May 2018: What are regional parties? Why and how they became strong and important in the Indian polity?**

Arora, Balveer (2003). "Federalization of India's Party System", in Ajay K. Mehra, D.D. Khanna and Gert Kueck (eds), *Political Parties and Party Systems*, New Delhi, Sage Publications, pp.83-99.

Palshikar, Suhas (2003). "The Regional Parties and Democracy: Romantic Rendezvous or Localized Legitimation?" in Ajay K. Mehra, D.D. Khanna and Gert Kueck (eds), *Political Parties and Party Systems*, New Delhi, Sage Publications, pp.306-35.

5. **4 June 2018: Emergence of 'post-Congress polity' and coalition governments; Forging of party alliances and multiple fronts**

R.L. Hardgrave, jr. & S.A. Kochanek (2008), "The Emergence of Coalition Politics and the Rise of the BJP", *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation*, chapters 7, pp.315-330.

Diwakar, Rekha (2017), "Fragmentation of the Party System and Coalition Politics", in *Party System in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi. Chapter 4, pp.94-124.

Yadav, Yogendra (1999). "Electoral Politics in the Time of Change: India's Third Electoral System: 1989-99", *Economic and Political Weekly*, 34 (34&35), August 21-28, 2393-99.

6. 11 June 2018: Communist party and the splits within. Debates on the state character, strategy and parliamentary communism.

Rodrigues, Valerian (2006). "The Communist Parties in India", in Peter Ronald DeSouza and E. Sridharan (eds) *India's Political Parties*, New Delhi: Sage Publications, pp.199-252.

Alam, Javeed (2002). "Communist Parties in Search of Hegemony", in Zoya Hasan (ed), *Parties and Party Politics in India*, New Delhi, Oxford University Press, pp.289-316.

Lofgren, Hans (2016), "The Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Left Government in West Bengal, 1977–2011: Strains of Governance and Socialist Imagination", *Studies in Indian Politics*, Vol 4, Issue 1, pp. 102 - 115.

7. 18 June 2018: The rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party to power

Diwakar, Rekha (2017), "Hindu Nationalism and Rise of the BJP", in *Party System in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi. Chapter 3, pp.66-93.

R.L. Hardgrave, jr. & S.A. Kochanek (2008), "The Emergence of Coalition Politics and the Rise of the BJP", *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation*, chapters 7, pp.315-330.

Mitra, Subrata K. (2016), "Encapsulation without Integration? Electoral Democracy and the Ambivalent Moderation of Hindu Nationalism in India", *Studies in Indian Politics*, Vol 4, Issue 1, pp. 90 – 101.

8. 25 June 2018: Caste based parties?

Jaffrelot, Christophe (2007). "The BSP in Uttar Pradesh: Whose Party is It?" om S.M. Michael (ed.), *Dalits in Modern India: Vision and Values*, Sage: New Delhi, pp.260-84.

Verma, A.K. (2004). "Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol XXXIX, Nos. 14 & 15, April 3-9/10-16, pp. 1509-14.

9. 2 July 2018: Economic reform policies and the political parties

Saranghi, Prakash (2005). "Economic Reforms and Change in the Party System", in Jos Mooij (ed). *The Politics of Economic Reforms in India*, Delhi: Sage, pp.71-95.

Suri, K.C. (2005). "Dilemmas of Democracy: Economic Reforms and Electoral Politics in Andhra Pradesh" in Jos Mooij (ed). *The Politics of Economic Reforms in India*, Delhi: Sage, pp.130-168.

10. 9 July 2018: Support base

Heath, Anthony and Yogendra Yadav (1999). "The United Colours of Congress: Social Profile of Congress Voters, 1996 and 1998", *Economic and Political Weekly*, 34 (34&35), 21-28 August, 2518-28.

Heath, Oliver (1999). "Anatomy of BJP's Rise to Power: Social, Regional and Political Expansion in the 1990s", *Economic and Political Weekly*, 34 (34&35), 21-28 August, 2511-17.

11. 16 July 2018: Populism, patronage and clientelistic politics:

Wyatt, Andrew (2013). "Populism and politics in contemporary Tamil Nadu", *Contemporary South Asia*, 21:4, 365-381.

Piliavsky, Anastasia (2014). *Patronage as Politics in South Asia*, Delhi: CUP. Introduction pp.1-38

Elliott, Carolyn (2016). "Clientelism and the Democratic Deficit." *Studies in Indian Politics* 4.1: 22-36.

12. 23 July 2018: Dynastic leadership and family politics

Chandra, Kanchan (2016). *Democratic Dynasties: State, Party and Family in Contemporary Indian Politics*, Cambridge, OUP: pp.12-55.

Chhibber, Pradeep K. (2011). "Dynastic parties: Organization, finance and impact". *Party Politics*, 19(2), 277-295.

13. 30 July 2018: Party and political reforms

M. V. Rajeev Gowda and E. Sridharan (2012), "Reforming India's Party Financing and Election Expenditure Laws," *Election Law Journal*, Vol 11, no 2 (June): 226-240.

Yadav, Yogendra (2001), 'A Radical Agenda for Political Reforms', *Seminar*, No. 506, October.



Guidelines for the course:

This is a seminar course. The readings include both textbook chapters that are introductory in nature and writings of some of the scholars well known in the field of studying political parties in India. Students are required to go through the readings mentioned in the syllabus and participate in classroom discussions. Students will make presentations of the select reading or readings in about 15-20 minutes, followed by 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 can talk about additional and supplementary readings on topics students choose to write a full-length essay.

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