Course Title: Trajectories of Indian Nationalism
Course Teacher: Pralay Kanungo
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Winter 2019/20
Thursday: 9-11am (CATS 010.01.05)

Indian nationalism refers to the many underlying discourses and forces which shaped Indian freedom struggle since the mid-nineteenth century, and continues to steer Indian politics after independence as well. Indian nationalism successfully negotiated with sharp diversities and contesting ideologies and united the Indians against British colonial rule. However, the process of negotiation had never been easy in postcolonial India, and the challenges put forward by various ethnic, religious, linguistic and regional identities always daunting. Today, Hindu nationalism firmly controls the state power and attempts to define India as Hindu. In this context, this course will introduce some important Indian thinkers and their texts/writings on Indian nationalism in order to provide a rich and diverse range of ideas, issues and contestations surrounding Indian nationalism.

Course objectives:

The course aims at providing an understanding of the diverse trajectories of Indian nationalism by introducing select thinkers, texts and debates. It will also impart skills which include reading critically, summarizing and presenting an argument coherently.

Calendar and Syllabus

Lecture 1: 24 October 2019

Introduction: Nationalism

This lecture, while introducing Indian nationalism, will first discuss the idea of nationalism and its diverse trajectories.

Essential Readings:


Supplementary Readings:


Lecture 2:  31 October 2019

Indian Renaissance and the Evolution of Indian Nationalism

The focus will be on the formative period of Indian Nationalism under colonial rule when Indian Renaissance began to unfold in the early nineteenth century primarily encompassing socio-religious spheres.

Essential Readings:


Supplementary Readings:


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Lecture 3:  7 November 2019

Rammohun Roy

The lecture will try to understand why Raja Rammohun Roy is called as the first modern Indian liberal political thinker.

Essential Readings:


Supplementary Readings:

Lecture 4: 14 November 2019

Vivekananda and Aurobindo: Primal Strings of Indian Nationalism

Swami Vivekananda and Aurobindo were the foremost thinkers of colonial India who made a deep study of the ancient Vedic-Vedantic texts and tried to explain the reasons of India’s subjugation in their own unique ways.

Essential Readings:


Supplementary Readings:


Lecture 5: 21 November 2019

Rabindranath Tagore: Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism

Rabindranath Tagore conceived the entire humanity as one family categorically rejecting any kind of narrow and belligerent nationalism.

Essential Readings:


Supplementary Readings:


Lecture 6: 05 December 2019

V.D. Savarkar and Hindu Nationalism

Religious nationalism constitutes an important variant of Indian nationalism. V.D. Savarkar is the father of Hindu nationalism.

Essential Readings:


Supplementary Readings:


Lecture 7: 12 December 2019

M.S. Golwalkar

This lecture will discuss the second RSS chief M.S. Golwalkar’s contribution to the ideology and organization of the RSS, the fountainhead of Hindu Nationalism.

Essential Readings:


Lecture 8: 19 December 2019

Md. Iqbal, Md. Ali Jinnah and Muslim Nationalism: Two Nations Theory

These lectures will discuss the emergence of the ideology of Muslim nationalism and two-nation theory as propounded by Mohammad Iqbal, and given a political reality by Md. Ali Jinnah.
Essential Readings:


Supplementary Readings:


**Lecture 9: 9 January 2020**

**Gandhian Nationalism: Hind Swaraj, Ahimsa (Non-violence) & Satyagraha**

This lecture will reflect on Mahatma Gandhi’s ideas of Indian Nationalism as expressed in his seminal text *Hind Swaraj* and also discuss the innovative Gandhian technique (Satyagraha) which brought freedom in a non-violent way.

Essential Readings:


Supplementary Readings:


**Lecture 10: 16 January 2020**

**Nehruvian Nationalism: Secularism, Democracy and Development**

In the formative years of nation-building, the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru espoused secularism, one of the most contested themes of Indian Nationalism. Besides, he championed democracy and pursued a path of modern development.

Essential Readings:


Lecture 11:  23 January 2020

B.R. Ambedkar: Nationalism and the Caste Question

B.R. Ambedkar called for the ‘annihilation of caste’ and transformation of the hierarchical socio-political order by empowering the marginalised though constitutional and political rights.

Essential Readings:


Supplementary Readings:


Lecture 12:  30 January 2020

Nationalism in India Today

Essential Readings:


Class 13:  06 February 2020

Concluding Lecture

Prior Requirements

This class does not require any prior knowledge of Indian nationalism. Students are required to go through the essential readings prescribed for each class in order to understand the ideas and arguments with clarity and reflect in the examination. The students who are interested to learn more about a particular topic may go through supplementary readings.

Organization

- The duration of each lecture will be a 90-minutes including questions and discussion at the end. Lectures will be aided by power-points, wherever required. The lecture slides and essential readings will be uploaded on Moodle.

Assessment

- Attendance is compulsory.
- Students will take a written examination at the end of the semester.