

University of Illinois Chicago
POLS 349 Seminar: Democracy and Development in India
Fall 2004
MW 10-11:15, BSB 1115

Instructor: Professor Nitish Dutt
Office Hours: TR 10-11
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Course Description

The objective of this course is to introduce students to Indian political economy organized around the interrelated themes of democracy and development. These themes are not only relevant to India, but all countries. By focusing on the specific case of India, this course seeks to address some of the major debates surrounding the design and functioning of representative democracy and the controversies surrounding issues related to development. In this connection the student is introduced to the work of some of the most accomplished and influential scholars writing on the Indian polity, economy and society.

We begin the course by framing the central issues relevant to the study of India and then move on to view these issues from a historical perspective. By the third week students are introduced to the political institutions underpinning Indian democracy and by week four and five confront some of the dilemmas of Indian democracy like the perceived institutional “decay”, participation, representation, inequality, and the question of Indian identity. Weeks six and seven is devoted to the political economy of autonomy and secession focusing especially on Kashmir and Punjab, and state society relations.

During the last three weeks the focus is on India’s efforts to further economic development and improve the economic condition of its people. Here we focus on the making and implementation of India’s economic policy addressing such issues as equity vs. development, state vs. market.

It is expected that students wishing to enroll in the course have completed ASI 2

Required readings: (Available for purchase at the University Bookstore).

Robert L. Hardgrave, Jr. and Stanley A. Kochanek, *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001)

Sunil Khilnani, *The Idea of India* (New York: Penguin Books, 2003)

Farnine Frankel, Zoya Hasan, Rajeev Bhargava, Balveer Arora eds. *Transforming India: Social and Political Dynamics of Democracy* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press 2000).

Recommended:

Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, *India: Development and Participation* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Mark Tully, *India in Slow Motion*, (Penguin/Viking, 2002) Fun reading to get a background on India from a British perspective.

Rob Jenkins, *Democratic Politics and Economic Reforms* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2000).

Course Requirements:

1. In class mid-term exam (30%)
2. Research paper of no more than 10 pages (excluding notes, tables and bibliographies (40%))
3. Class participation (20%): Regular participation of **ALL** students enrolled in the course is **REQUIRED**. All students **MUST** complete all the readings before coming to class.
4. Student reaction papers (10%)

Each student will be required to make an oral presentation as part of TWO reaction papers (5% each) to be handed in on the day of the presentation. Late papers will remain unread, and certainly not count towards your grade. ***There are no exceptions to this policy.***

For each presentation, the student must summarize the central themes of the required readings, and raise questions for the class to consider for discussion.

The purpose of the reaction papers is to **critically** evaluate/analyze the readings. They should not be summaries of the readings. Casually reading the assigned articles is not likely to help your grade. You should therefore begin reading well before each class meeting, taking notes and posing questions as you read. For example, when you finish a reading you should be able to answer the following questions:

1. What are the central issues/questions addressed in the readings? How convincing/unconvincing were the arguments/evidence provided in support of or against the issues/questions?
2. What are the underlying assumptions? How plausible/implausible are they?
3. Your reaction, comments, criticism backed by your reasons.

In addition to writing weekly reaction papers, students will also be responsible for leading the discussion of specific readings throughout the course of the semester. As a discussion leader, students should first present a brief summary (no more than 5 minutes) of the readings and then spend about 10 minutes on the critique. In most cases, the discussion leader will not have more than 15 minutes in the total for his/her presentation. After the presentation, the class (myself included) will have the opportunity to ask questions of the presenter and to discuss the reading in more detail. I will serve as both moderator and participant in our weekly class discussions. While I don't anticipate the need, should there be a lack of participation amongst other students and/or should the quality of these discussions be sub par due to students' failing to do the readings before coming to class, I reserve the right to give in-class surprise tests on the reading materials.

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction (August 23-30 1½ week)

Readings:

Required:

Sunil Khilnani, *The Idea of India*, pp.1-60, pp.

Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, *India: Development and Particiapation*

Rajni Kothari, "The Democratic Experiment" in Chatterjee ed., pp. 23-36 (on reserve)

Video: Background

Recommended:

Partha Chatterjee, Introduction, pp. 1-20 in Chatterjee ed., *The Wages of Freedom* (On reserve).

Historical Background (Sept. 1, 8)

6, Sept. Labor Day Holiday

Readings:

Required:

Hardgrave and Kochanek, *India*, Ch. 2

Sumit Sarkar, "Indian Democracy: The Historical Inheritance," in Atul Kohli ed. *The Success of India's Democracy*, pp. 23-46

Paul Brass, *The Politics of India Since Independence* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997), pp. 1-30 (On reserve)

Recommended:

Jawaharlal Nehru, *Toward Freedom* (Beacon Press, 1967), pp. 275-285 (On reserve)

Partho Chatterjee "Introduction" in Chatterjee ed. *Wages of Freedom: Fifty Years of the Indian Nation-State*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998, pp. 1-20.

Partho Chatterjee, "Indian Democracy and Bourgeois Reaction," in *A Possible India: Essays in Political Criticism*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998, pp. 35-57. (On reserve)

Rajni Kotharim, "The Democratic Experiment," in Partho Chatterjee ed. *The Wages of Freedom*, pp. 23-36 (On reserve)

The Political Framework (Sept. 13, 15)

Required:

Hardgrave and Kochanek, *India*, pp. 60-153

Jyotindra Das Gupta, "India's Federal Design and Multicultural National Construction," in Kohli ed. *The Success of India's Democracy*, pp. 49-76.

James Manor, "Centre-State Relations," in Atul Kohli, ed., *The Success of India's Democracy*, pp. 127-162

Recommended:

Stephen P. Cohen, "The Military and Indian Democracy," in Atul Kohli, ed., *India's Democracy: An Analysis of Changing State-Society Relations* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1988), pp. 62-98 (Book on reserve)

Rudolph and Rudolph, "New Dimensions of Indian Democracy," *Journal of Democracy*, 13 (January 2002), pp. 52-66 (electronic reserve).

Robert L. Hardgrave, Jr., "India: The Dilemmas of Diversity," *Journal of Democracy*, IV (October 1993), pp. 54-68 (electronic reserve)

Sunil Khilnani, pp. 150-208

Sudipta Kaviraj, "Democracy and Social Inequality," in Francine Frankel et. Al. eds., *Transforming India*, pp. 193-225

Myron Weiner, "The Struggle for Equality: Caste in Indian Politics", Kohli, *The Success of India's democracy*, pp. 193-225

Recommended:

Zoya Hasan, "Representation and Redistribution: The New Lower Caste Politics of North India", in Frankel et. al. eds., *Transforming India: Social and Political Dynamics of Democracy*, pp. 146-175

Election and Political Behavior (Sept. 27, 29)

Required:

Hardgrave and Kochanek, *India*, pp. 327-366

James Manor, "Parties and Party System," in Atul Kohli, ed. *India's Democracy: An Analysis of Changing State-Society Relations*, pp. 62-98

Yogendra Yadav, "Understanding the Second Democratic Upsurge: Trends of Bahujan participation in electoral politics in the 1990s" in Frankel et. Al. eds., *Transforming India*, pp. 120-145

Recommended:

S.K. Mitra and V.B. Singh, *Democracy and Social Change in India: A Cross-sectional Analysis of the Indian Electorate* New Delhi/Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1999

Ethnic Tensions and National Integration (Oct. 4, 6)

Required:

Hardgrave and Kochanek, *India*, pp. 152-174

Atul Kohli, "Can democracies accommodate ethnic nationalism? The rise and decline of self-determination movements in India," *Journal of Asian Studies* Vol. 56:2 (May 1997), pp. 325-344

Gurharpal Singh, "Punjab Since 1984: Disorder, Order, and Legitimacy," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 36:4 (April 1996), pp. 410-421

Sumit Ganguly, "Explaining the Kashmir Insurgency: Political Mobilization and Institutional Decay," *International Security* Vol. 21:2 (Fall 1996), pp. 76-107

Recommended:

Paul Brass, *The Politics of India Since Independence* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997). Pp. 157-227 (Book on reserve)

Arun R. Swamy, "Sense, Sentiment and Populist Coalitions: The Strange Carrer of Cultural Nationalism in Tamil Nadu," in Subrata K. Mitra and R. Alison Lewis *Subnational Movements in Sout Asia* (), pp. 191-236

Interest Group Politics (Oct. 11, 13)

Hardgrave and Kochanek, *India*, pp. 175-233

Mary Katzenstein, Smitu Kothari and Uday Mehta, "Social Movement Politics in India: Institutions, Interest, and Identities," in Atul Kohli, ed., *The Success of India's Democracy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001), pp. 242-269

Barnett R. Robin, "The Civil Liberties Movement in India: New Approaches to the State and Social Change," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 27:3 (March 1987), pp. 371-392.

Dharma Kumar, "The Affirmative Action Debate in India: New Approaches to the State and Social Change," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 27:3 (March 1987), pp. 371-392

Dharma Kumar, "The Affirmative Action Debate in India," *Asian Survey* 32 (March 1992), pp. 290-302

Required:

Amrita Basu, "The Dialectics of Hindu Nationalism," in Atul Kohli Ed., *The Success of India's Democracy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), pp. 163-190

Christopher Jaffrelot, "Hindu Nationalism and Democracy," Francine Frankel et. al. eds. *Transforming India: Social and Political Dynamics of India* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2000), pp. 353-376

Ashutosh Varshney, "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond," *World Politics* Vol. 53:3 (April 2001), pp. 362-378

Recommended:

Sumantra Bose, "Hindu Nationalism and the Crisis of the Indian State: A Theoretical Perspective," in Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal, eds. *Nationalism, Democracy and Development: State and Politics in India* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1999), pp. 104-164

Romila Thapar, "Imagined Religious Communities: Ancient History and the Modern Search for a Hindu Identity" *Modern Asian Studies* Vol. 22:1 (1998), pp. 109-231

******* Midterm Exam Oct. 25th (in class) *******

Civil Society (Oct. 27, Nov. 1)

Required Reading:

Sunil Khilnani, "The Development of Civil Society," in Sudipta Kaviraj and Sunil Khilnani eds., *Civil Society: History and Possibilities*, pp. 11-32

Mary Katzenstein, Smitu Kothari and Uday Mehta, "Social Movement Politics in India: Institutions, Interests, and Identities," in Atul Kohli ed., *The Success of India's Democracy*, pp. 242-269

Susanne H. Rudolph, "Civil Society and the Reach of Freedom," *Economic and Political Weekly*, (12 May, 2000), pp. 1762-69

Strategies of Economic Development: State vs. Market (Nov. 3, 8)

Sunil Khilnani, *The Idea of India*, pp. 61-106

Prabhat Patnaik, "Economic Policy and Its Political Management in the Current Conjuncture," in Frankel et. al. eds., *Transforming India*, pp. 231-253.

Jayati Ghosh, "Development Strategy in India: A Political Economy Perspective," in Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jala eds., *Nationalism, Democracy and Development: State and Politics in India* (Oxford University Press, 1999), pp. 165-183 (On reserve)

Political Economy of Reforms and Policy Performance (Nov. 15, 17)

Video: Emerging Powers

Hardgrave and Kochanek, *India*, pp. 367-407

Rob Jenkins, *Democratic Politics and Economic Reform in India* (New York: Penguin Books, 2003). 'Introduction' (On reserve)

Student Presentations of Research (Nov. 22 – Dec 1)