

CORE-4: POLITICAL PROCESS IN INDIA

Course objective: Actual politics in India diverges quite significantly from constitutional legal rules. An understanding of the political process thus calls for a different mode of analysis - that offered by political sociology. This course maps the working of 'modern' institutions, premised on the existence of an individuated society, in a context marked by communitarian solidarities, and their mutual transformation thereby. It also familiarizes students with the working of the Indian state, paying attention to the contradictory dynamics of modern state power.

I. Political Parties and the Party System (1.5 weeks or 6 lectures)

Trends in the Party System; From the Congress System to Multi-Party Coalitions

II. Determinants of Voting Behaviour (2 weeks or 8 lectures)

Caste, Class, Gender and Religion

III. Regional Aspirations (2 weeks or 8 lectures)

The Politics of Secession and Accommodation

IV. Religion and Politics (2 weeks or 8 lectures)

Debates on Secularism; Minority and Majority Communalism

V. Caste and Politics (1.5 weeks or 6 lectures)

Caste in Politics and the Politicization of Caste

VI. Affirmative Action Policies (1.5 weeks or 6 lectures)

Women, Caste and Class

VII. The Changing Nature of the Indian State (1.5 weeks or 6 lectures)

Developmental, Welfare and Coercive Dimensions

READING LIST

I. Political Parties and the Party System: Trends in the Party System; From the Congress System to Multi-Party Coalitions

Essential Readings:

R. Kothari, (2002) 'The Congress System', in Z. Hasan (ed.) *Parties and Party Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp 39-55.

E. Sridharan, (2012) 'Introduction: Theorizing Democratic Consolidation, Parties and Coalitions', in *Coalition Politics and Democratic Consolidation in Asia*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Additional Reading:

Y. Yadav and S. Palshikar, (2006) 'Party System and Electoral Politics in the Indian States, 1952-2002: From Hegemony to Convergence', in P. deSouza and E. Sridharan (eds.) *India's Political Parties*, New Delhi: Sage Publications, pp. 73-115.

II. Determinants of Voting Behaviour: Caste, Class, Gender and Religion

Essential Readings:

- Y. Yadav, (2000) 'Understanding the Second Democratic Upsurge', in F. Frankel, Z. Hasan, and R. Bhargava (eds.) *Transforming India: Social and Political Dynamics in Democracy*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 120-145.
- C. Jaffrelot, (2008) 'Why Should We Vote? The Indian Middle Class and the Functioning of World's Largest Democracy', in *Religion, Caste and Politics in India*, Delhi: Primus, pp. 604-619.
- R. Deshpande, (2004) 'How Gendered was Women's Participation in Elections 2004?', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 39, No. 51, pp. 5431-5436.
- S. Kumar, (2009) 'Religious Practices Among Indian Hindus,' *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 10, No. 3, pp. 313-332.

III. Regional Aspirations: The Politics of Secession and Accommodation

Essential Readings:

- M. Chadda, (2010) 'Integration through Internal Reorganisation', in S. Baruah (ed.) *Ethnonationalism in India: A Reader*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 379-402.
- P. Brass, (1999) 'Crisis of National Unity: Punjab, the Northeast and Kashmir', in *The Politics of India Since Independence*, New Delhi: Cambridge University Press and Foundation Books, pp.192-227.

IV. Religion and Politics: Debates on Secularism: Minority and Majority Communalism

Essential Readings:

- T. Pantham, (2004) 'Understanding Indian Secularism: Learning from its Recent Critics', in R. Vora and S. Palshikar (eds.) *Indian Democracy: Meanings and Practices*, New Delhi: Sage, pp. 235-256.
- N. Menon and A. Nigam, (2007) 'Politics of Hindutva and the Minorities', in *Power and Contestation: India since 1989*, London: Fernwood Publishing, Halifax and Zed Books, pp.36-60.

Additional Reading:

- N. Chandhoke, (2010) 'Secularism', in P. Mehta and N. Jayal (eds.) *The Oxford Companion to Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 333-346.

V. Caste and Politics: Caste in Politics and the Politicization of Caste

Essential Readings:

- R. Kothari, (1970) 'Introduction', in *Caste in Indian Politics*, Delhi: Orient Longman, pp.3-25. M. Weiner, (2001) 'The Struggle for Equality: Caste in Indian Politics', in Atul Kohli (ed.) *The Success of India's Democracy*, New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, pp. 193-225.
- G. Omvedt, (2002) 'Ambedkar and After: The Dalit Movement in India', in G. Shah (ed.) *Social Movements and the State*, New Delhi: Sage Publications, pp. 293-309.

VI. Affirmative Action Policies: Women, Caste and Class

Essential Readings:

- M. Galanter, (2002) 'The Long Half-Life of Reservations', in Z. Hasan, E. Sridharan and R. Sudarshan (eds.) *India's Living Constitution: Ideas, Practices, Controversies*, New Delhi: Permanent Black, pp. 306-318.

C. Jaffrelot, (2005) 'The Politics of the OBCs', in *Seminar*, Issue 549, pp. 41-45.

M. John, (2011) 'The Politics of Quotas and the Women's Reservation Bill in India', in M. Tsujimura and J. Steele (eds.) *Gender Equality in Asia*, Japan: Tohoku University Press, pp. 169-195.

VII. Changing Nature of the Indian State: Developmental, Welfare and Coercive Dimensions

Essential Readings:

S. Palshikar, (2008) 'The Indian State: Constitution and Beyond', in R. Bhargava (ed.) *Politics and Ethics of the Indian Constitution*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 143-163.

R. Deshpande, (2005) 'State and Democracy in India: Strategies of Accommodation and Manipulation', Occasional Paper, Series III, No. 4, Special Assistance Programme, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Pune.

M. Mohanty, (1989) 'Duality of the State Process in India: A Hypothesis', *Bhartiya Samajik Chintan*, Vol. XII (1-2)

Additional Readings:

T. Byres, (1994) 'Introduction: Development Planning and the Interventionist State Versus Liberalization and the Neo-Liberal State: India, 1989-1996', in T. Byres (ed.) *The State, Development Planning and Liberalization in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1994, pp.1-35.

A. Verma, (2007) 'Police Agencies and Coercive Power', in S. Ganguly, L. Diamond and M. Plattner (eds.) *The State of India's Democracy*, Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, pp. 130-139.