

POSC 391: Politics and Government in India
Fall 2017
Monday, Wednesday 3:20-4:35pm
Location: Geller 2

Instructor: YuJung (Julia) Lee
E-mail: yujung.lee@case.edu
Office: Mather House 220
Office Hours: Mon. 1:00-2:30 or by appointment
Course websites: canvas.case.edu

Course Description

India is the second most populous country in the world, accounting for about seventeen percent of the world's population. It is also a country with rich diversity and dynamic growth. This course provides an introduction to the political structure and policymaking process that shape development in contemporary India. The main questions that help guide the course are: How has India been able to sustain its democracy in a multi-ethnic setting? Does India's political system help various ethnic, religious, and linguistic groups achieve political representation and accountability? Why does poverty remain widespread despite high economic growth rates?

In order to answer these questions we will begin with a brief historical background of India, and then examine formal political institutions that shape the development process. We will also be covering the social and cultural context of policymaking that accompanies economic growth, and some of the major challenges India's democracy faces today. The course is organized by key topics that include: colonial legacies, government institutions, elections and political parties, decentralization and local governance, social cleavages, poverty, corruption, and human development. Using India as a guide, the course will provide students with concepts and skills that may be used to analyze and interpret policy making in other developing countries.

Required Texts:

Varshney, Ashutosh. 2014. *Battles Half Won: India's Improbable Democracy*. Penguin UK.

All other required readings will be available online on the course website.

Recommended Texts:

The following books are not required for purchase, but we will be reading some parts of these books in class. If you are interested in studying about India further, I recommend that you purchase the following books as well.

Kohli, Atul ed. 2001. *The Success of India's Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Robert Hardgrave & Stanley Kochanek. 2008. *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation*. Boston: Thomson Wadsworth.

Sen, Amartya. 2005. *The Argumentative Indian: Writings on Indian History, Culture and Identity*. Macmillan.

Luce, Edward. 2007. *In Spite of the Gods: the Rise of Modern India*. New York: Random House.

Dreze, Jean and Amartya Sen. 2013. *Uncertain Glory: India and its Contradictions*. Princeton University Press.

Kapur, Akash. 2012. *India Becoming: A Portrait of Life in Modern India*. New York: Penguin.

Assignments

Midterm exam: The midterm will be an in-class, closed-book, closed-notes exam.

Presentation: The purpose of the presentation is to pose and address an interesting question on India in comparative perspective. You will focus either on a) India and one country of your choice; or b) two Indian states. You will present your analytical response to a question that is relevant to a topic listed in the syllabus. You may choose the week you want to present. The week you choose to present broadly defines your presentation topic in a sense that your presentation will be relevant to the topic from the previous week (i.e. Week 4 presenter will present on a question relevant to the topic of Week 3). Each presenter should present for about 15 minutes (including Q&A time). In your presentation, you should *narrow down* the weekly topic in order to pose a question. Most of your presentation should be focused on India, but at some point, you should also explore the similarities and differences between India and your country/state of choice. You do *not* need to hand in a written report of your presentation, but you should have either presentation slides or handouts. These slides will be uploaded to the course website for everyone to view. Presentations will start in Week 3.

Short papers: You will be required to write a critical response paper. The purpose of the paper is to help you synthesize the lecture material and readings and think critically about issues that were covered in class. I will give you the question for the paper in advanced and you should write your analytical response based on course material. This paper should be no more than 8 pages (excluding references). Hard copies of papers should be submitted in class.

Final paper: The main written assignment for this course is to write an in-depth literature review on a specific topic. Choose a topic concerning Indian politics and development either from current events or from history. Then, organize background information and current knowledge on your topic so that it presents an argument. You need to synthesize the materials and address what the findings in the papers mean and how they relate to your argument. You should also make suggests for future studies based on desk research. Your final paper should be about 15 pages double spaced. You will be required to share and submit your topic and 2 page annotated bibliography in the middle of the semester. I will not read any drafts of your final paper during office hours, however you are highly encouraged to come and talk to me about your topic.

Grading

Your grade will be determined as follows:

Class participation	10%
Midterm exam	25%
Presentation	15%
Short paper-critical response paper	20%
Final paper	30%

Course Policies and Procedures

Late work policy: Hard copies of your papers must be submitted in class. Please do not email your papers to me. Papers submitted any time after class on the due date will be treated as late. Late papers will be downgraded half a letter *per day* (i.e. A to A- or 3.3% per day). In the case of an emergency or excused absence (ex. hospitalization, family death), accommodations may be made with timely notification and appropriate documentation. For the midterm, there is no make-up exam so make sure you are available on the scheduled day of the exam.

Note on Office Hours: I *strongly* encourage you to come to my office hours should you need help or clarification on any of the materials. You may come in to talk to me about your final paper topic or have questions on the material you will be presenting.

Cheating or Plagiarism: All work submitted in this course must be your own work, produced exclusively for this course. The use of someone else's ideas, quotations, music, graphs/charts, and/or paraphrases must be properly documented, even if you have the permission of that person. Direct quotes must be in quotation marks and have the page number in the citation. ***Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment and may result in a failing grade for the class.*** For more information on Academic Integrity please see: <http://bulletin.case.edu/undergraduatestudies/academicintegrity/> . If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues, please consult with the instructors ***before*** you complete the relevant assignment.

Students with Disabilities: If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Resources (<https://students.case.edu/academic/disability/>).

Course Schedule

Part I: Historical Legacies

Week 1 (Aug. 28, 30): Introduction & Colonialism

Keywords: India, British raj, colonial ideologies, education, community organization

Required readings:

Mehta, Uday S., 1999. *Liberalism and Empire: A Study in Nineteenth-Century British Liberal Thought*. University of Chicago Press. pp. 87-106

Suggested readings:

Metcalf, Barbara and Thomas Metcalf, 2002, "Chapter 4: Revolt, the Modern State, and Colonized Subjects, 1848-1885." *A Concise History of India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Amartya Sen, Chapter 1: *The Argumentative Indian*, 3-33.

Week 2 (Sept. 6): Partition and Independence

Keywords: nationalism, equality, Rebellion, colonial legacies, direct and indirect rule, consequences of partition

- Sept. 4: holiday, no class

Required readings:

Mujeeb, Mohammad, 1993. "The Partition of India in Retrospect" in Mushirul Hasan, ed., *India's Partition*, Oxford University Press, pp. 396-407

Battles Half Won, Chapter 4.

Suggested readings:

Sarkar, Sumit, 2001, "Chapter 2: Indian Democracy: The Historical Inheritance" in Atul Kohli ed, *The Success of India's Democracy*.

Week 3 (Sept. 11, 13): The Constitution & Key Political Figures

Keywords: formation of the Constituent Assembly, the Constitution, Gandhi, Nehru, President's rule and other emergency measures

- Note: **Presentations will start this week.**

Required readings:

Austin, G. 1979, 'The Constituent Assembly: Microcosm in Action', in *The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-25.

Metcalf, Barbara and Thomas Metcalf, 2002, "Chapter 8: Congress Raj," *A Concise History of India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Battles Half Won, Chapter 1 and 2

Suggested readings:

Bhargava, Rajeev, 2008, 'Introduction: Outline of a Political Theory of the Indian Constitution', in Rajeev Bhargava ed., *Politics and Ethics of the Indian Constitution*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-40.

Pantham, T. 2008. 'Gandhi and the Constitution: Parliamentary Swaraj and Village Swaraj,' in Rajeev Bhargava, ed. *Politics and Ethics of the Indian Constitution*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 59-78.

Wilkinson, S. 'India, Consociational Theory and Ethnic Violence', *Asian Survey*, 40, (5), 767-91

Part II: Democracy and Government

Week 4 (Sept. 18, 20): Structure of Government

Keywords: Parliament, Lok Sabha, executive branch, prime minister, Supreme Court

Required reading:

Madhavan, M.R., 2017, "Chapter 2: Parliament" in Devesh Kapur, Pratap B. Mehta, and Mila Vaishnav eds., *Rethinking Public Institutions of India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Suggested readings:

Robert Hardgrave and Stanley Kochanek. 2008. *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation*. Boston: Thomson Wadsworth. "Parliament" section in Chapter 3, pg. 84-129 only.

Week 5 (Sept. 25, 27): Decentralization

Keywords: federalism vs. decentralization, center-state relations, local governments in rural and urban area, special states

Required reading:

Heller, Patrick, K. N. Harilal, and Shubham Chaudhuri. "Building local democracy: Evaluating the impact of decentralization in Kerala, India." *World Development* 35.4 (2007): 626-648.

Battles Half Won, Chapter 6

Suggested readings:

Robert Hardgrave and Stanley Kochanek. 2008. *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation*. Boston: Thomson Wadsworth. "Local Government" in Chapter 3, pg. 129-136 only. Chapter 4 "The Challenge of Federalism."

Kohli, ed. 2001, "Chapter 4 "Center-State Relations" by J. Manor.

Week 6 (Oct. 2, 4): Electoral Systems and Political Representation

Keywords: political representation of minority groups, reservations, Election Commission

- Note: **Short paper due on Oct. 4 in class.**

Required readings:

Jenselius, Francesca. 2015 "Mired in Reservations: The Path-Dependent History of Electoral Quotas in India." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 74 (1): p. 85-105.

Pande, R 2003. "Can Mandated Political Representation Increase Policy Influence for Disadvantaged Minorities? Theory and Evidence from India." *The American Economic Review* 93(4): p. 1132-1151

Battles Half Won, Chapter 3

Suggested readings:

Robert Hardgrave and Stanley Kochanek. 2008. *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation*. Boston: Thomson Wadsworth, Chapters 8.

Week 7 (Oct. 9, 11): Political Parties

Keywords: national and regional parties, trends in party system, Indian National Congress, BJP

Required readings:

Oberst et al. 2014. "Chapter 4: Shifting Perspectives About Political Parties and Political Leaders." in *Government and Politics in South Asia, Seventh Edition*.

Chandra, Kanchan. 2004. "India as a Patronage Democracy" in *Why Ethnic Parties Succeed: Patronage and Ethnic Head Counts in India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: p. 115-142.

BJP 2014 Election Manifesto. Read the first few pages and skim the rest. Available at: <http://www.bjp.org/manifesto2014>

Suggested readings:

Pradeep Chhibber and Ken Kollman, "Party Aggregation and the Number of Parties in India and the United States," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 92, No. 2 (Jun., 1998), pp. 329-342

Robert Hardgrave and Stanley Kochanek. 2008. *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation*. Boston: Thomson Wadsworth, Chapters 6 and 7.

Week 8 (Oct. 16, 18): Social Cleavages I: Caste, Class, and Religion

Keywords: Hindus and Muslims, caste and its interaction with gender, class, or religion, linguistic diversity

- Note: **Oct. 18 Midterm Exam**

Required readings:

Weiner, Myron. "The Struggle for Equality: Caste in Indian Politics" in Kohli ed. *The Success of India's Democracy*. 2001. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Brass, P.R., 2003, 'Introduction: Explaining Communal Violence', in *The Production of Hindu-Muslim Violence in Contemporary India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 5-39.

Battles Half Won, Chapter 7

Suggested readings:

Chhibber, P.K. and J.R. Petrocik. 1989. "The Puzzle of Indian Politics: Social Cleavage and the Indian Party System." *British Journal of Political Science*, 19 (2): 191-210.

Week 9 (Oct. 25): Social Cleavages II: Conflict

Keywords: insurgencies, ethnoreligious violence

- Oct. 23: Fall break, no class.

Required readings:

Wilkinson, Steven. 2004. Chapter 1 “The Electoral Incentives for Ethnic Violence” in *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hoelscher, Kristian, Jason Miklian, and K.C. Vadlamannati. 2012. “Hearts and Mines: A District Level Analysis of the Maoist Conflict in India.” *International Area Studies Review* 15(2): p. 141-160.

Battles Half Won, Chapter 5

Suggested readings:

Varshney, Ashutosh. 2001. “Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond,” *World Politics* 53(3): p. 362-298.

Week 10 (Oct. 30, Nov. 1): Social Movements

Keywords: civil society, political society, women’s movements, farmers’ associations, violent and non-violent movements

- Final paper topic due: Please bring in idea(s) for your final paper topic to share with your peers.

Required readings:

Mary Katzenstein, Kothari Smithu, and Mehta Uday, “Social Movement Politics in India: Institutions, Interests, and Identities” in Atul Kohli, ed. 2001. *The Success of India’s Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Battles Half Won, Chapter 8

Part III: Challenges to Democracy and Development

Week 11 (Nov. 6, 8): Poverty

Keywords: economic planning and pro-poor growth, measuring poverty, national schemes

Required readings:

Banerjee, Abhijit, Esther Duflo, Rachel Glennerster, Cynthia G. Kinnan. 2013. “The Miracle of Microfinance? Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation” NBER Working Paper No. 18950.

Battles Half Won, Chapter 9

Suggested readings:

Atul Kohli, 2006. “Politics of Economic Growth in India, 1980-2005” Part I and II. *Economic and Political Weekly* 41(13) April 1:p. 1251-59 and 41(14) April 8:p. 1361-70.

Robert Hardgrave and Stanley Kochanek. 2008. *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation*. Boston: Thomson Wadsworth, Chapter 9.

Singh, Prerna 2013. “Public Goods Provision and Social Development in India.” in *Routledge Handbook of Indian Politics*, ed. Kohli and Sing. New York: Routledge: p. 230-245.

Week 12 (Nov. 13, 15): Corruption

Keywords: measuring corruption, decentralization and corruption, the issue of criminal candidates

Required readings:

Bardhan, Pranab and Dilip Mookherjee. 2006. "Decentralization, Corruption and Government Accountability," in Susan Rose-Ackerman, ed. *International Handbook on the Economics of Corruption*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing Limited.

Min, Brian, and Miriam Golden. 2014. "Electoral Cycles in Electricity Losses in India." *Energy Policy* 65: 619-625.

Suggested readings:

Bussell, Jennifer. 2012. *Corruption and Reform in India: Public Services in the Digital Age*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-2.

Week 13 (Nov. 20, 22): Human Development: Health, Education, and Gender

Keywords: literacy and learning, malnutrition, sanitation

Deaton, Angus and Jean Dreze. 2009. "Food and Nutrition in India: Facts and Interpretations" *Economic & Political Weekly*. Feb. 14.

The Economist. 19 July 2014. "The Final Frontier"

Dreze, Jean and Amartya Sen. 2013. Chapter 5 in *Uncertain Glory: India and Its Contractions*. Princeton University Press.

Sen, Amartya. 20 Dec. 1990. "More than 100 Million Women are Missing" *New York Review of Books*.

Suggested readings:

Chaudhury, Nazmul, et al. 2006. "Missing in Action: Teacher and Health Worker Absence in Developing Countries." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20.1: 91-116.

Kremer, Michael, et al. "Teacher Absence in India: A Snapshot." *Journal of the European Economic Association* 3.2-3 (2005): 658-667.

Week 14 (Nov. 27, 29): Security

Keywords: energy security, nuclear policy, Kashmir

Required readings:

Ramchandra Guha, 2008, *India After Gandhi*, "Securing Kashmir," pp. 249-266

Ganguly, S., Pardeesi, M.S., 'Explaining Sixty Years of India's Foreign Policy', *India Review*, 8, (1), 4-19

Noronha, L. and Sudershan, A. 2009, "Introduction", in *India's Energy Security*, New Delhi: Routledge

Suggested readings:

Sumit Ganguly, 1996, "Explaining the Kashmir Insurgency," *International Security*, Fall, pp. 76-107

Week 15 (Dec. 4, 6): India's Market and Regional Cooperation

Keywords: BRICS, ASEAN, SAARC

Required readings:

Battles Half Won, Chapter 9

Saez, Lawrence. 2011. *South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC): An Emerging Collaboration and Architecture*. New York: Routledge. Chapter 4 "The Dimensions of Regional Collaboration in South Asia."

Armijo, Leslie Elliot. 2007. "The BRICs Countries (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) as Analytical Category: Mirage or Insight?" *Asian Perspective* 31(4): p. 7-42.

Final Paper due date will be announced in class.