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

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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:  

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.  


**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 suggestions 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/undergraduastudies/academicintegrity/](http://bulletin.case.edu/undergraduastudies/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:**


**Suggested readings:**


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:


Battles Half Won, Chapter 4.

Suggested readings:


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:


Battles Half Won, Chapter 1 and 2

Suggested readings:


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:

Suggested readings:


**Week 5 (Sept. 25, 27): Decentralization**

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

Required reading:


*Battles Half Won*, Chapter 6

Suggested readings:


**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:


*Battles Half Won*, Chapter 3

Suggested readings:

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

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

Required readings:


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

Suggested readings:


**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:


Battles Half Won, Chapter 7

Suggested readings:


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

Keywords: insurgencies, ethnoreligious violence

- Oct. 23: Fall break, no class.
Required readings:


Battles Half Won, Chapter 5

Suggested readings:


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:


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:


Battles Half Won, Chapter 9

Suggested readings:


Week 12 (Nov. 13, 15): Corruption
Keywords: measuring corruption, decentralization and corruption, the issue of criminal candidates

Required readings:


Suggested readings:


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

Keywords: literacy and learning, malnutrition, sanitation


Suggested readings:


Week 14 (Nov. 27, 29): Security

Keywords: energy security, nuclear policy, Kashmir

Required readings:


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


Suggested readings:

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

Keywords: BRICS, ASEAN, SAARC

Required readings:

Battles Half Won, Chapter 9


Final Paper due date will be announced in class.