

FOUNDATION COURSE ON CONTEMPORARY INDIA

FACULTY: Dr Shrikant Paranjpe and Dr. Anurekha Chari Wagh

Description of the Course

The course seeks to acquaint the students to contemporary India – its culture and society, the current politics, political economy, and foreign relations. It deals mainly with the current happenings in India with a little history as a point of reference. It is desirable that the students participate actively in the classroom discussions.

Goals of the Course

The purpose of this course is to understand India in its various elements. There are several images of India, of the society, the polity, economic changes, and things like corruption, religious riots and caste conflicts along with the construction of big dams, new airports and power plants. The purpose is to make sense out of what you read and see about the country.

Expected Outcomes

In a sense this is an area studies course that is introductory in nature. It seeks to equip the student with the basics that would help the student to take off for further study in an area of his/her choice or specialization. This course along with a working knowledge of local language should enable the student to make sense of the developments in the country that the student may see or read in the media.

Attendance

It is essential that students participate fully in coursework and all required academic activities. Excused absences may only be approved by the Director, and students are expected to make up any missed work. Unexcused absences will adversely affect your grades.

Course Assignments/Evaluation

There would be a 50 marks semester end test that the student would have to write in the classroom. The structure of the question paper would be given to the students in advance. This course is taught jointly by Dr. Shrikant Paranjpe and Dr. Anurekha Chari Wagh. Each of the ~~faculty~~ would design class assignments

equivalent to 25 marks each and inform the students in advance. These assignments would be in form of assignments, short presentations, etc.

Course Structure

(Please note: Shrikant would take lectures on every Monday and Anurekha on each ~~Wednesday~~ Friday)

1. A survey of important social/cultural/political/economic developments and trends since Indian independence (2 sessions) (Shrikant)

Reading: India: A Country Report in Norton, James K. Global Studies: India and South Asia. Guilford, CT: Dusk Publications Group.

See also synoptic note.

2. Indian Political System (Structure and Process, including Political Parties, elections, etc.) (2 Sessions) (Shrikant)

Reading: Note prepared by Shrikant Paranjpe

3. Understanding India's Political Economy and Impact of Globalization and Liberalization on India (2 sessions)(Shrikant)

Reading: Nivedita Menon and Aditya Nigam, Power and Contestation: India since 1989 (Hyderabad: Orient Longman, 2007), pp.82-102

See also: Synoptic note on Globalisation

4. Problem of Terrorism in India (1 session) (Shrikant)

Reading: Tracking 'New Terrorism' in the Indian Context, in Gurmeet Kanwal and N.Manoharan, India's War on Terror, (New Delhi: KW Publishers, 2010), pp. 15-36.

5. Indian foreign policy and US India relations (1 sessions) (Shrikant)

Reading: Shrikant Paranjpe 'India and the United States since 1991: Imperatives for a Strategic Partnership' (To be published in Strategic Analysis)

6. Media in India (1 session) (Shrikant)

Readings: Based on newspaper readings and watching of TV by the students

7. Issues in Governance (1 session) (Shrikant)

Readings: Bipin Chandra, Mridula Mukherjee and Aditya Mukherje, India since Independence, (Penguin, New Delhi, 2008), Chapter 40: Disarray in Institutions of Governance

8. Understanding India: Language as Identity: the language Question In India. (1 Session) (Anurekha) **Reading Sarangi, A (2010): Introduction, Language and Politics in India in Asha Sarangi (ed) language and Politics in India, Oxford University Press: New Delhi.**

9. Religious Diversity in India (1 Session) (Anurekha) **Reading: Madan, T N (2004): Religions of India, in Veena Das (ed) Handbook of Indian Sociology, Oxford University Press, New Delhi.**
10. Caste in India. (1 Sessions) (Anurekha) **Reading: Srinivas M N (1991) Varna and Caste in Dipankar Gupta (ed) Social Stratification Oxford University Press, New Delhi. b. Ghurye, G S (1991): Features of caste System in Dipankar Gupta (ed) Social Stratification Oxford University Press, New Delhi.**
11. *Gender* as a socialized construct: Nationalism and Women's question, Indian State and Women. (1 Session) (Anurekha) **Reading: Chakravarti, Uma (1993): 'Conceptualising Brahmanical patriarchy in early India: Gender, caste, Class and State', Economic and Political Weekly, 3rd April, Vol 28, No.14**
12. Social, Cultural and Political Movements in India: Women, Dalits, Tribals, Environment, Workers and Peasants (6 sessions) (Anurekha) **Reading: Shah g (ed) (2002): Social Movements and the State. Sage Publications, New Delhi.**

Contact Details:

Dr. Anurekha Chari Wagh

Dept. of Sociology, University of Pune, Pune.

Tel: 020-25601305 E Mail: anurekha@unipune.ernet.in

Dr Shrikant Paranjpe

Dept. of Defence and Strategic Studies University of Pune, Pune

Tel: 9372079063 (Mob.) 25632808 (Res)

E Mail <shrikantparanjpe@hotmail.com>