The course: Politics, Society and Law in Modern India

Course Code: 0037-1-172

Instructor: Dr. Ayelet Harel
Email: ayeleths@bgu.ac.il

Schedule: To be arranged. Room: 645

Course Objectives:
The course aims to study conflicts and the analysis of political dynamics in Indian democracy, the largest and most advanced democracy in the world. During the course, we will focus on tackling key issues in the field of government, the law, and politics in India, in light of the religious, ethnic, linguistic, gender, social, and geopolitical forces that exist in the country, as well as its external relations with its neighbors. The course will focus on studying the India that became independent from 1947 onward, in a theoretical and comparative framework.

The students will gain tools for analyzing cases, in addition to a better understanding of the Indian case.

Requirements and Grading:

- Attendance and active participation in lectures - mandatory; including reading of library materials and supplementary materials that will be uploaded to the model course site.
- Successful completion of assignments.

The course includes 12 meetings in class and a variety of reading and viewing films.

The course is not recommended for first-year students.

The course grade will be given as follows:

- Participation and activity in lectures - no additional points for completing this requirement, but can reduce points or be non-qualifying in case of excessive absences.
- 20% Mid-term Assignment - mandatory.
- Analysis of an article or two articles from the selection of articles in the syllabus, presented in class (20%)
- 80% Final Exam (to be held on a date to be determined by mutual agreement). The final exam must be submitted on or before the deadline date of the final exam, as agreed.

Submission of a summary report - mandatory. The summary report must be submitted together with the final exam.

The structure of the course:

Topics covered in the course:

- Lecture No. 1: 06.03. How do you study a case study? The definition of a political map. Understanding the political map, and its impact on the course.

Readings:


Optional Readings:


Skocpol, Theda. "Bringing the State Back In." In Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, & Theda Skocpol (Eds.). *Bringing the State Back In*. Cambridge University Press, 1985: 3-37.


Connor, Walker. “A Nation is a Nation, is a State, is an Ethnic Group, is a…” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 1(10) 1978: 377-400.


Readings:


Optional Readings:


Chakrabarty, Dipesh. "‘In the Name of Politics’: Democracy and the Power of the Multitude in India." Public Culture 19(1) 2007: 35-57.


Selected parts of Supreme Court Verdicts.

Optional Readings:


Readings:


Optional Readings:


Readings:


Optional Readings:


Readings:


Optional Readings:


Jacob, Suraj. "Gender and Legislative Performance in India". *Politics & Gender*, 10(2) 2014: 236-264.


Readings:
Varshney, Ashutosh. "How has Indian Federalism Done?" Studies in Indian Politics 1(1) 2013: 43-63.


Optional Readings:


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**Readings:**


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**Optional Readings:**


Readings:
Ganguly, Sumit & Manjeet S. Pardesi. "Explaining Sixty Years of India's Foreign Policy." India Review 8(1) 2009: 4-19.


Optional Readings:


Readings:


Optional Readings:


Readings:


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