



M.A. (DLB)0663– Cases of Political Manipulation from the Global Arena

JSIA Cross Elective – Fall 2026

Course Information

Course Duration: 15 Weeks

Credit Hours: 60 Hours

Meetings: In classroom,

Location: TBA

Prerequisites: None

Equivalent Courses: NA

Exclusive Courses: NA

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr Shyam Hari P.

Biography: Dr Shyam Hari P. is Assistant Professor at Jindal School of International Affairs. His teaching and research interests are situated in the domain of Peace and Conflict Studies.

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1. Course Description

In academic discourses, political power is regarded as the utmost form of influence that individuals can exert over others. Power is conceived to encompass a range of capabilities, extending from shaping decisions and actions to acquiring coveted resources, such as wealth and status. Within this context, entities competing for political power frequently formulate tactics and strategies to secure a competitive advantage. This course thematically incorporates cases and examples from around the world where some evidence exists of the application of manipulative strategies in politics. This engagement will be conducive to gaining insights into the dynamics of contests for political power.

Course Objectives:

The course aims to help students to:

- Understand the nuances of political power as the paramount form of influence and critical resource.
- Analyse tactics and strategies devised by entities in their pursuit of political power.
- Gain a nuanced understanding of the dynamics inherent in political power contests by examining cases worldwide.

2. Course Intended Learning Objectives (Aim)

Course Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Activities	Assessments/ Activities
Demonstrate knowledge of different tactics in politics.	Lecture and Discussion	Class Participation, MSE, Group Presentation and End Semester Examination
Display the skill for understanding goal driven pursuit of politics.	Lecture and Discussion	Class Participation, MSE, Group Presentation and End Semester Examination

3. Scheme of Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation breakup

Internal breakup: 70 Marks

Components: Class Participation (10 Marks), Mid-Semester Examination (30 Marks) and Group Presentation (30 Marks)

External breakup: 30 Marks

Components: End Semester Examination

Grade Definition

Letter Grade	Percentage of Marks	Grade Points	Comments
O	80 and above	8	Outstanding: Exceptional knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and extraordinary critical and analytical ability.
A+	75 - 79	7.5	Excellent: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and critical and analytical ability.
A	70 - 74	7	Very Good: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, excellent organizational capacity, ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles, critically analyse existing material and originality in thinking and presentation.
A-	65 -69	6	Good: Good understanding of the subject matter, ability to identify issues and provide balanced solutions to problems and good critical and analytical skills.
B+	60 - 64	5	Fair: Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B	55 - 59	4	Acceptable: Adequate knowledge of the subject matter to go to the next level of the study and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B-	50 - 54	3	Marginal: Limited knowledge of the subject matter and irrelevant use of materials, and poor critical and analytical skills.
P1	45 - 49	2	Pass 1: Pass with a Basic understanding of the subject matter.
P2	40 - 44	1	Pass 2: Pass with a Rudimentary understanding of the subject matter.
F	Below 40	0	Fail: Poor comprehension of the subject matter; poor critical and analytical skills and marginal use of the relevant materials. This will require repeating the course.

4. Academic Integrity

- Students are expected to observe discipline and maintain the decorum of the class.
- Reading materials listed in the course manual should be downloaded by students through JSTOR and other electronic sources using the university library access. Those materials that are not available through electronic sources will be shared with the students as and when it is relevant.
- It is pertinent that students make notes in class and participate in discussions.
- Students are required to focus on key arguments/perspectives in each reading material and relate them to the discussions in the classes.
- Political Science and International Relations as subjects include topics which sometimes elicit sensitive and controversial debates. The debates and discussions should never result in insulting the sentiments of others. Students are expected to respect the

opinions, thoughts and positions of other students and be courteous when expressing their thoughts and be considerate of others.

- For further guidance, help or to clarify doubts related to the course, the students are free to meet the course instructor with a prior appointment.
- Unfair means in examinations should be avoided completely. If a case is found, then it will be reported to the school's UMC.

5. Keyword Syllabus

Political Manipulation, Political strategies, and tactics

6. Course Material

Riker, W. H., Riker, W. H., & Riker, W. H. (1986). *The art of political manipulation* (Vol. 587). Yale University Press.

7. Session Plan

Session	General Topic	Readings	Approach/ Pedagogy
1	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parsons, T. (1963). On the Concept of Political Power. <i>Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society</i>, 107(3), 232–262. • Stoker, L. (1992). Interests and Ethics in Politics. <i>The American Political Science Review</i>, 86(2), 369–380. 	Lecture and Discussion
2	Historical Revisionism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kuki, S. (2013). The burden of history: the issue of “comfort women” and what Japan must do to move forward. <i>Journal of International Affairs</i>, 67(1), 245–256. • Baumel-Schwartz, J. T. (2010). The Holocaust and Its Denial [Review of <i>The Abuse of Holocaust Memory: Distortions and Responses</i>, by M. Gerstenfeld]. <i>Jewish Political Studies Review</i>, 22(3/4), 116–120. 	Lecture and Discussion
3	Conspiracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shapley, D. (1974). Weather Warfare: Pentagon Concedes 7-Year Vietnam Effort. <i>Science</i>, 184(4141), 1059–1061. • George Washington University. (n.d.). Justification for US Military Intervention in Cuba. The National Security Archive. https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/news/20010430/ 	Lecture and Discussion

4	Astroturfing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cho, C. H., Martens, M. L., Kim, H., & Rodrigue, M. (2011). Astroturfing Global Warming: It Isn't Always Greener on the Other Side of the Fence. <i>Journal of Business Ethics</i>, 104(4), 571–587. • Biju, P. R., & Gayathri, O. (2023). Self-Breeding Fake News: Bots and Artificial Intelligence Perpetuate Social Polarization in India's Conflict Zones. <i>The International Journal of Information, Diversity, & Inclusion</i>, 7(1/2), 1–25. 	Lecture and Discussion
5	Scapegoating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mithun, M. B. (2018). Ethnic Conflict and Violence in Myanmar: The Exodus of Stateless Rohingya People. <i>International Journal on Minority and Group Rights</i>, 25(4), 647–663. • Coglianesi, Cary, "Law as Scapegoat" (2020). Faculty Scholarship at Penn Carey Law. 2200. 	Lecture and Discussion
6	Dog Whistle Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albertson, B. L. (2015). Dog-Whistle Politics: Multivocal Communication and Religious Appeals. <i>Political Behavior</i>, 37(1), 3–26. • Hindess, B. (2014). Whistling the dog. In J. Uhr & R. Walter (Eds.), <i>Studies in Australian Political Rhetoric</i> (pp. 143–154). ANU Press. 	Lecture and Discussion
7	MID SEMESTER EXAMINATION		
8	Red Herring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jared Leighton. (2016). "Character Assassins": How the FBI Used the Issue of Homosexuality against the Black Freedom Struggle. <i>Journal of Civil and Human Rights</i>, 2(2), 151–185. • HARIDAS, K. (2013). The "Solar Scam" and the Siege at Thiruvananthapuram. <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>, 48(41), 17–20. 	Lecture and Discussion
9	Information Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seliger, B., & Schmidt, S. (2014). The Hermit Kingdom Goes Online ... Information Technology, Internet Use and Communication Policy in North Korea. <i>North Korean Review</i>, 10(1), 71–88. • SRIDHAR, M. (2017). Right to Privacy and RTI Act: Though "Fundamental," Not Absolute Right. <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>, 52(38), 29–31. 	Lecture and Discussion

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hu, M. (2020). Cambridge Analytica's black box. <i>Big Data & Society</i>, 7(2). 	
10	GROUP PRESENTATIONS		
11	GROUP PRESENTATIONS		
12	Lobbying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strickland, J. (2019). America's Crowded Statehouses: Measuring and Explaining Lobbying in the U.S. States. <i>State Politics & Policy Quarterly</i>, 19(3), 351–374. • Brown, B. E. (1962). ORGANIZED BUSINESS IN INDIAN POLITICS. <i>The Indian Journal of Political Science</i>, 23(1/4), 126–143. 	Lecture and Discussion
13	Voter Suppression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharma, S.N. "BOOTH CAPTURING: JUDICIAL RESPONSE." <i>Journal of the Indian Law Institute</i> 41, no. 1 (1999): 44–55. • Manjari Katju (2021) Institutional initiatives towards expanding democracy: the Election Commission of India and electoral mobilisation, <i>Contemporary South Asia</i>, 29:2, 147-161. 	Lecture and Discussion
14	Gerrymandering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little, B. (2021). How gerrymandering began in the US. Retrieved from https://www.history.com/news/gerrymandering-origins-voting • De Mesquita, B. B. (1978). Redistricting and Political Integration in India. <i>Comparative Political Studies</i>, 11(2), 279–288. • Verma, A. K. (2006). Delimitation in India: Methodological Issues. <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>, 41(9), 794–799. 	Lecture and Discussion
15	REVISION/SPILL-OVER		