

Course Name – Political Process in India

Course Code – TBC

Credits – 4

Faculty Name – Dr. Rashmi Singh

Course Description

This course engages with political processes in Indian politics. The course is divided into three broad themes – political processes related to elections and institutions (representative institutions), political processes at the intersection of politics and society (political parties and social movements), and political/electoral processes more closely inter-twined with Indian society (forms of patronage, clientelism, etc). We will examine questions such as: what is the nature of democracy and political participation at the grassroots? How does democracy mediate between traditional social structures and modern institutions? What are the communal solidarities and divisions that under-cut and transform political processes and participation in India?

*Indicative readings**

Part 1:

1. Subrata Mitra, 'From *homo hierarchicus* to plural society: politics and social change in India', *Politics in India: Structure, process and policy*, Routledge, 2011.
2. Michelutti, L. *The vernacularisation of democracy: Politics, caste, and religion in India*, New Delhi: Routledge, 2007.
3. Price, P. G., & Srinivas, D. 'Patronage and Autonomy in India's Deepening Democracy'. In A. Piliavsky (Ed.), *Patronage as politics in South Asia* (pp. 217–236), Cambridge University Press, 2014.

4. Ritanjan Das, Kenneth Bo Nielsen & Arild Engelsen Ruud. (2023). 'Dynastic dilemma in South Asia: influence, networks and shamefacedness', *Contemporary South Asia*, 31:3, 355-370.

Part 2:

1. Weiner Myron, *Sons of the Soil: Migration and Ethnic Conflict in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1987.
2. Jula M. Eckher, *The Charisma of Direct Action: Power, Politics, and the Shiv Sena*, Oxford University Press, 2003.
3. Blom Hansen, T., & Verkaaik, O. (2009). 'Urban Charisma. On everyday mythologies in the city', *Critique of Anthropology*, 29(1), 5–26.
4. Berenschot, W. (2011). 'On the usefulness of goondas in Indian politics: 'Money power' and 'muscle power' in a Gujarati locality', *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 34 (2), 255–275.

Part 3:

1. Devesh Kapur and Milan Vaishnav, *Costs of Democracy: Political Finance in India*, Oxford University Press, 2018.
2. Lama-Rewal, Stéphanie Tawa. 2009. "Studying Elections in India: scientific and Political Debates.", *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*, no. 3.
3. Rai, Shirin M., and Carole Spary, eds. *Performing representation: Women members in the Indian parliament*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

**A more detailed reading list will be shared at the start of the course*

Prerequisites- This course requires basic familiarity with Indian politics. It is aimed at second year undergraduates and above.

Scheme of Evaluation and Grading –

Internal Evaluation: Presentations: 20 marks, Mid-term: 20/30 marks + short research paper– 20 marks – (*To be confirmed*)

External Evaluation: Final exam (written, closed): 30/40 marks