

**Course Title:** Government and Politics in Mongolia  
**Course No:** SA 645  
**Total Credits:** Three (3)  
**Course Teacher:** Dr. Sharad K. Soni

## **INTRODUCTION**

Beginning with an overview of socio-cultural and political history of Mongolia that covers about half of the vast Inner Asian region, the course delves into major changes occurred in the socio-political domains of this country after independence in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It focuses on the evolution and growth of the political system and the crisis of socialism in the country, besides dealing with the democratisation process after the Soviet collapse. The main purpose of this course is to provide an understanding of Mongolia not only by exploring its unique nomadic culture but also examining the country's momentous socio-economic and political changes during the post-socialist democratic transition. It highlights current discourses on issues of regional identity, foreign policy and national security in Mongolia's highly robust multi party democratic system apart from discussing its foreign relations and participation in international organizations in regional and global context.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

This is an optional course which requires the students to do three mandatory assignments: term paper, presentation and book review in addition to an end semester examination. Class attendance is highly recommended.

## **EVALUATION PATTERN**

The evaluation of student's performance is done purely on the basis of academic merit. Grading and marks will be given for term paper (20%), presentation (10%), book review (10%), class participation (10%) and end semester examination (50%).

## **COURSE CONTENTS**

### **Section I:** Introduction

- a) Mongolia in Inner Asian Regional Setting
- b) Socio-cultural life based on Nomadism and Buddhism
- c) Political Situation of Mongols in the pre-independence period

### **Section II:** Revolution and Independence in Mongolia

- A. The Struggle for National Independence
- B. Birth of the MPRP and introduction of Marxist-Leninist Ideology in Mongolia
- C. "Anti-capitalist great changes" and Elimination of Nomadic Society System
  - Elimination of Feudal System
  - Struggle against Religion
  - Cultural Revolution

- Contradiction between Nomadism and Socialism

### **Section III: Modern Mongolian Society and Politics**

- a) Socio-economic Profile
- b) Modernisation Process
- c) Government Structures and Political Institutions
  - Structure and Dynamics of Parliamentary Politics
  - *State Great Hural* and Legislative System
  - Electoral Process and Presidential Powers
- d) Civil Society and Media
- e) Role of Buddhist Monasteries in Society and Politics

### **Section IV: Political Developments in National, Regional and Global Context**

- A. Reforms and Democratisation Process
- B. Regional Identity Issues
- C. Foreign Policy and National Security Issues
- D. Foreign Relations with Russia, China, USA, Japan, Kazakhstan, EU and India
- E. Participation in International Organisations

### **SELECTED READINGS**

Batbayar, B. (1999), *Twentieth Century Mongolia*, Cambridge: The White Horse Press.

Batbayar, Ts. and Soni, Sharad K (2007), *Modern Mongolia: A Concise History*, Delhi: Pentagon.

Bawden, C. R. (1968), *The Modern History of Mongolia*, London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

Bedeski, Robert E. (2008), *Mongolian Futures: Scenarios for a Landlocked State*, Sweden.

Billé, Franck and others, eds. (2012), *Frontier Encounters: Knowledge and Practice at the Russian, Chinese and Mongolian Border*, Cambridge: Open Book Publishers.

Bold, R. (2000), *The Security of Small States: Option for Mongolia*, Ulaanbaatar.

Borjigin, Husel and Junko, Imanishi, eds. (2012), *The History and Culture of Mongols in the 20th Century*, Tokyo: Fukyosha Publishing Inc.

Bulag, U. E. (2010), *Collaborative nationalism: The politics of friendship on China's Mongolian frontier*, Lanham, Md: Rowman& Littlefield Publishers.

Campi, Alicia and RagchaaBaasan (2009), *The Impact of China and Russia on United States-Mongolian Political Relations in the Twentieth Century*, New York: The Edwin Mellen Press.

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- Depuy, Trevor N., and others (1970), *Area Handbook for Mongolia*, Washington.
- Dierkes, J. ed. (2012), *Change in Democratic Mongolia: Social Relations, Health, Mobile Pastoralism, and Mining*, Leiden: Brill.
- Friters, G. M. (1949), *Outer Mongolia and its International Position*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins.
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- Lattimore, Owen (1940), *Inner Asian Frontiers of China*, London: Oxford University Press.
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- Lattimore, Owen (1962), *Nomads and Commissars*, New York: Oxford University Press.
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- Moses, Larry and Stephen A. Holkovic Jr. (1985), *Introduction to Mongolian History and Culture*, Bloomington: Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies.
- Murphy, George G.S. (1966), *Soviet Mongolia: A Study of the Oldest Political Satellite*, Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Nyamdavaa, Oidov (2003), *Mongolia-India Relations*, New Delhi: Bhavana Books & Prints.
- Onon, Urgunge and Derrick Pritchatt (1989), *Asia's First Modern Revolution: Mongolia Proclaims its Independence in 1911*, Leiden: E. J. Brill.
- Ram Rahul (1987), *Afghanistan, Mongolia and USSR*, New Delhi: Vikash Publishing.

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