

CENTRE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES, SSS

MA OPTIONAL COURSE

STATE IN INDIA

PO 531

Course Description:

The course will focus on social, political, economic and cultural dynamics of the institution of State in modern India. It examines themes central to the understanding of the nature and form of relationship between state and society in post-independence India. We will explore thematic pluralities related to the categories of religion, caste, region, gender, language and class etc, and their uses in the state formation process in contemporary India. Themes such as the rise of middle class, globalization, economic reforms, decentralization, forms of cultural nationalism as well as important social movements, lowcaste mobilization and women's rights will form the crucial aspects of the course. By understanding the complex dynamics between the democratic institutional structures and political processes, we will be able to comprehend and develop the framework of analysis for the category of State as a conceptual and empirical reality. The attempt is to take stock of various discourses and debates over the Indian State. This will enable us to see the methodological and conceptual pluralism in our understanding of the institution of the State in India.

Course Requirements:

Students are required to engage with the readings suggested, and should participate actively in the discussion in the classes and tutorials.

Evaluation : 2 assignments and end semester exam

Course Details:

Part One:

Theories of the State: Western and NonWestern

State Formation and Its Processes

Conceptual and Methodological approaches to study the Indian State

Historical Genealogies of the Indian State

State Formation in India

Readings:

Gabriel Almond, The Return of the State in APSR, Vol 82, No 3, September 1988. Joel S.Migdal, State in Society: Studying How States and Societies Transform and Constitute One Another (1991: CUP)-Selections

Foucault M., *Governmentality*

Peter Evans and Theda Skocpol, Bringing the State Back in (1985: CUP), Selections Charles Tilly, The Formation of NationStates in Western Europe (Selections).

Martin Doornboos and Sudipta Kaviraj (ed), Dynamics of State Formation: India and Europe Compared (Selections).

Part Two:

Institutional Framework of the Indian State

Developmental Planning, Industrialization, Agrarian Reforms.

Political Economy of the Reforms and the Politics of Liberalization

Social Equity and Political Rights: Plans and Policies

Democratic decentralization.

Readings:

Pranab Bardhan, The Political Economy of Development in India

Amiya Bagchi, Political Economy of Underdevelopment

Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph, In Pursuit of Lakshmi: The Political Economy of the Indian State Francine Frankel, India's Political Economy, 1947-77, and the revised edition of year 2004.

Terence Byres (ed), The State and Development Planning in India

Sathayamurthy T.V. (ed), State and Nation in the Context of Change (selections),

Francine Frankel and M.S.A.Rao (Ed), Dominance and State Power, Vol 1 and 2.

Rob Jenkins, Economic Reforms and Democracy (Selections).

Deepak Nayyar, Economic Liberalization in India

Part Three:

Identity Politics: Religion, Caste, Gender, Language and Region.

Law, Minorities and Women's Rights

Governance Agenda, Media Politics.

Social Movements in Contemporary India: Shifting Concerns

New Political Institutions and Democratization of Indian Polity

Readings:

David Ludden (ed), Making India Hindu: Religion, Community and the Politics of Democracy in India (selections).

Atul Kohli, Democracy and Discontent: India's Growing Crisis of Governability.

Christophe Jaffrelot, India's Silent Revolution: The Rise of Low Castes in North Indian Politics.

Ghanshyam Shah (ed), Dalit Identity and Politics.

Oliver Mendelsohn and Upendra Baxi (ed), The Rights of the Subordinated People

Gail Omvedt, Reinventing Revolution: New Social Movements and the Socialist Tradition in India.

Bina Agarwal, A Field of Her Own: Gender and Property Rights in India

Bina Agarwal (ed), Structures of Patriarchy.

Frankel et al, Transforming India: Social and Political Dynamics of Democracy

T.V.Sathyamurthy (ed), Region, Religion, Caste, Gender and Culture in Contemporary India.

Karin Kapadia (ed), The Violence of Development.

Asha Sarangi (ed). Language and Politics in India (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009).

Part Four:

State in India: A Comprehensive View

A State within states: Modes of Comparison and Contrast

Concluding Remarks

Readings:

Lloyd Rudolph (ed), Experiencing the State (Selections).

John Harris , Reinventing India

Chris Fuller and Veronique Benei (ed), Everyday State and Society in Modern India.

Partha Chatterjee (ed), State and Politics in India.

Vivian She, The Reach of the State