

CENTRE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY
MONSOON SEMESTER 2021

M.PHIL. OPTIONAL COURSE: PO 637

COURSE TITLE: **DALIT MOVEMENTS IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA**

INSTRUCTOR: PROFESSOR NARENDER KUMAR

Credits 4

Scheme of Evaluation: One Seminar paper and One Term Paper.

Objectives: This Course underlines the significance and emergence of Dalit consciousness and its implications for contemporary democratic politics. It seeks to understand the politics of the oppressed sections of society as expressed through a search for identity and through movements, which seek improvement in their socio-economic status, a share in political power and ultimately destruction of the unequal caste order.

The nature of these movements, their objectives and construction of Dalit identity is sought to be understood through existing frameworks in the first part. Part two analyses the debates on reform and representation of the Dalit and the factors underlying various anti-caste movements in the colonial period, which have consequence for the post-independence period. The third part takes up a few movements, and examines their emergence, ideology strategies of mobilisation. The similarities/differences among these movements and their implications for politics in various regions will be highlighted in the course. Finally two major aspects of the movement viz. Reservations in terms of policy outcome and Atrocities in terms of continuing social phenomenon will be highlighted and discussed to highlight the gaps prevalent in the larger goals of the movement.

I. Framework for the Study of Dalit Movements

- a) Social Movements - Liberal and Marxist frameworks.
- b) "New" Social Movements in the West and in India.
- c) Approaches to the study of dalit movements, overview of literature.
- d) Changing socioeconomic position of dalits, identity and ideology.

II Depressed Castes and Anti-caste Movements in the Colonial Period

- a) The socioeconomic conditions of the depressed castes.
- b) The Depressed classes and the colonial government.
- c) Gandhi and Ambedkar on social reform and representation for the depressed castes.
- d) Anti-caste movements in the colonial period.

II. Dalit Movements in Post Independence India

Emergence, Ideology and Strategies of Mobilization of Major Dalit

Movements:

- a) The Republican Party of India - UP and Maharashtra
- b) The Dalit Panthers
- c) The Bahujan Samaj party
- d) The Dalit movement in Tamil Nadu
- e) The Dalit Sangharsh Samiti in Karnataka

IV Issues and Problems Concerning Dalits

- a) Reservations
- b) Caste based Atrocities

Selected Readings:

Anupama Rao. *The Caste Question: Dalits and the Politics of Modern India*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 2009.

Badri Narayan. *The Making of Dalit Public in North India*, OUP, 2011

B.R. AMBEDKAR COLLECTED WORKS, GOVT OF MAHARASHTRA.

Chinnaiah Jangam. *Dalits and Making of the Modern India*, OUP, 2017

Eleanor Zelliot. *From Untouchable to Dalit: Essays on the Ambedkar Movement* Manohar, New Delhi, 1992.

Gail Omvedt. *Dalits and the Democratic Revolution Dr Ambedkar and the Dalit Movement*, Sage, New Delhi, 1994.

Ghanshyam Shah. *Social Movements in India : A Review of Literature*, Sage, New Delhi, 2000.

H.Kotani (ed). *Caste System Untouchability and the Depressed Manohar*, New Delhi, 1997. (See essays on TN)

J.R. Kamble. *Rise and Awakening of Depressed Classes in India*, National Publishers, 1979

Jayashree Gokhale. "The Dalit Panthers and the Radicalisation of Untouchables" *Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* 28(1) March 1979.

K.L. Sharma. *Caste, Class and Social Movement*, Rawat publications, Jaipur, 1986.

Kancha Illiah. "Productive Labour, Consciousness and History: A Dalit Bahujan Alternative" *Subaltern Studies*, Vol IX, OUP.

Mark Jurgensmeyer. *Religion as Social Vision: The Movement Against Untouchability in 20th Century Punjab*, University of California, Berkeley, 1978

Michael Mahar (ed). *The Untouchables in Contemporary India*, University of Arizona Press, 1972.

Narendra Jadhav. *Untouchables: My Family's Triumphant Escape from India's Caste System*, University of California Press, 2007.

Narender Kumar. *Dalit and Shudra Politics and Anti-Brahmin Movement* *Economic and Political Weekly*, November 4- 10, 2000

Owen Lynch. *The Politics of Untouchability*, Columbia University, 1969.

P.E. Mohan. *SCs: History of TN 1900-55*, New Era Publications, Madras, 1993

P.Pimpley & Satish Sharma (eds). *Struggle for Status*, B.R. Publishing Corporation, New Delhi, 1985.

R.L. Hardgrave. *The Nadars of Tamilnadu: The Political Culture of a Community in Change* Berkeley, 1969.

R.S. Khare *The Untouchable as Himself: Ideology Identity and Pragmatism among the Lucknow Chamars*, CUP, 1984.

Rajni Kothari (ed.). *Caste in Indian Politics*, Orient Longman, Delhi, 1970.

Robert Deliege. *The World of the Untouchable Paraiyars of TN* OUP, 1997

Robin Jeffrey. "The Social Origins of a Caste Association 1874-1905: The Founding of the SNDP Yogam" *South Asia* 4(1) 1974.

Rosalind O'Hanlon. *Caste Conflict and Ideology: Mahatma Phule and Low Caste Protest in the 19th Century*, CUP, 1985.

S.K. Gupta. *The SCs in Modern Indian Politics: Their Emergence as a Political Power*, Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1985.

Satish K. Sharma. *Social Movements and Social Change: A Study of the Arya Samaj and Untouchables in the Punjab*, B.R.Publishing Company, Delhi, 1985.

Sharmila Rege, *Writing Caste/Writing Gender: Narrating Dalit Women's Testimonies*, Zuban, Delhi, 2007 Seminar 1998 (special issue on Dalit) no 471, November.

Sudha Pai & Jagpal Singh, 1997 "Politicisation of Dalits and Most Backward Castes Study of Social Conflict and Political Preferences in Four Villages of Meerut District" *Economic and Political Weekly* XXXII, no 23, June 7: 1358-61.

Sudha Pai, 2000 "New Social and Political Movements of Dalits A Study of Meerut District" Contributions to Indian Sociology June, no 2, 34: 189-220.

Sudha Pai. 2002 Dalit Assertion and the Unfinished Democratic Revolution: the BSP in Uttar Pradesh, Sage, New Delhi

Sukhadeo Thorat. Dalits in India: Search for a Common Destiny, Sage, New Delhi, 2009.

Sukhadeo Thorat and Narendra Kumar. BR Ambedkar: Perspectives on Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, OUP, New Delhi, 2008.

T.K. Oommen. Protest and Change: Studies in Social Movements Sage, New Delhi, 1990.

Uma Ramaswamy. "Self Identity Among SCs: A Study of AP" EPW 23 November 1974.

Oliver Mendelsohn and Marica Vicziany. The Untouchables: Subordination, Poverty and State in Modern India, CUP, New Delhi, 1998.

V. Geeta & S.V. Rajdurai. Towards a Non Brahmin Millennium Samya Publications, 1999.

V.T. Rajshekhar Shetty. Dalit Movements in Karnataka Christian Literature Society, Madras. 1988.

Note: The above-mentioned Course Content is intended for a regular one-semester course (four months). With the changes in the duration of the semester, corresponding modifications will be applied with reference to the topics, class lectures and readings.