

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY

				Semester:	3	Paper No:	7
Paper Title:	POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY						

Course Summary

Objectives: This course introduces students to the major themes and debates in political sociology. The attempt is to equip students to visualize substantive political realities through concepts and contemporary case studies. The course explores the mutual constitution of the 'political' and the 'social'.

Outline:

- 1. The Study of Politics**
- 2. Categories of Political Analyses**
 - 2.1 Power and Authority
 - 2.2. States, Civil Society and Democracies.
- 3. Politics and Society in India**
 - 3.1 Political Economy
 - 3.2 Political Identities: Nation and Caste
 - 3.3 Political Institutions and Democratic Processes
 - 3.4 Politics and Popular Culture

COURSE CONTENTS AND ITINERARY

1. The Study of Politics: (Weeks: 1-2)

- 1.1. Bottomore, Tom. *Political Sociology*, Bombay: BI Publications, 1983. pp.7-19
- 1.2. Gledhill, John. 2000, *Power and its Disguises: Anthropological Perspectives on Politics*, 2nd Ed., London: Pluto Press, 2000. Pp.1-22

2. Categories of Political Analyses: (Weeks: 3-7)

2.1 Power and Authority:

- 2.1.1. Weber, Max. *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978. pp. 53-54; 941-954; 212-30; 241-54
- 2.1.2. Lukes, Steven. *Power: A Radical View*, 2nd Ed., Hampshire: Palgrave, 2005. pp. 14-59

2.2 States, Civil Society, and Democracies:

- 2.2.1. Mitchell, Timothy. 'Society, Economy, and the State Effect', in A. Sharma & A. Gupta (ed.), *The Anthropology of the State: A Reader*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2006. pp .169-85
- 2.2.2. Macpherson, C.B. *The Real World of Democracy*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1966. pp. 1-45
- 2.2.3. Harriss, John. *Power Matters*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009. pp. 256-73.

3. Politics and Society in India: (Weeks: 8-14)

3.1 Political Economy

- 3.1.1. Frankel, F. R. *India's Political Economy 1947-2004*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2005. pp.3-27
- 3.1.2. Vanaik, A. 'The Social Character of the Indian State', in Z. Hasan (ed.), *Politics and the State in India*, New Delhi: Sage, 2000. pp.89-107

3.2 Political Identities: Nation and Caste

- 3.2.1. Sathyamurthy, T.V. 'Indian Nationalism: State of the Debate', in *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol.32 (14), 1997. pp. 715-721

- 3.2.2. Mayer, A.C. 'Caste and Local Politics in India', in P. Mason (ed.) *India and Ceylon: Unity and Diversity*, London: Oxford University Press, 1967. pp.121-40
- 3.2.3. Weiner, Myron. 'The Struggle for Equality: Caste in Indian Politics', in A. Kohli (ed.), *The Success of India's Democracy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. pp. 193-225

3.3 Political Institutions and Democratic Processes

- 3.3.1. Bailey, F.G. 'Para-Political Systems', in M. J. Schwartz (ed.), *Local level Politics: Social and Cultural Perspectives*, London: University of London Press, 1968. pp. 281-94.
- 3.3.2. Gould, H. A. 'Local Government Roots of Contemporary Indian Politics', *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. VI (7),1971. pp. 457-64.
- 3.3.3. Michelutti, Lucia. 'The Vernacularization of Democracy: Political Participation and Popular Politics in North India', *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, vol.13 (3), 2007. pp. 639-656.

3.4 Politics and Popular Culture

- 3.4.1. Dickey, Sara. 'The Politics of Adulation: Cinema and the Production of Politicians in South India', in *The Journal of Asian Studies*, vol.52 (2), 1993. pp. 340-70.
- 3.4.2. Dutt, Utpal. Keynote Address to the Symposium on Cinema in Developing Countries, Publications Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, 1979 pp. 7-12.

Visual Programme, a Representative Sample:

Documentaries: Why Democracy
(<http://whydemocracy.net/>)

TV Series: Yes, Minister, Yes, Prime Minister,
(<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0080306/>)

Films and TV Series from India:

Tamas , Neem ka Pedh, Kissa Kursi ka, Garam Hawa, Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron, New Delhi Times,Gulaal, Soldiers in Sarong.

SUGGESTED READINGS

- Evans-Pritchard, E. E. 1940, 'The Nuer of the Southern Sudan', in M. Fortes & E. E. Evans-Pritchard (eds.), *African Political Systems*, London: Oxford University Press.
- Clastres, Pierre. *Society Against the State*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1977. Chapter 11.
- Piven, F.F. & R. A. Cloward. 2005, 'Rule Making, Rule Breaking and Power', in Thomas Janoski et. al. (ed.), *A Handbook of Political Sociology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bottomore, Tom. 1964, *Elites and Society*, Harmondsworth: Penguin Books.
- Held, David. 1987, *Models of Democracy*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, Ch.9- 'What should democracy mean today?'
- Gaventa, John. 2011, 'Civil society and power', in *The Oxford Handbook of Civil Society*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.416-27
- Kothari, Rajni. 1970, *Caste in Indian Politics*, Hyderabad: Orient Longmen.
- Manor, James. 1988, 'Parties and the Party System', in A. Kohli (ed.), *India's Democracy*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp.62-98
- Aloysius, G. 1997, *Nationalism without a Nation in India*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Chatterjee, Partha. 1998, 'Secularism and Tolerance' in R. Bhargava ed. *Secularism and its Critics*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 345-379.
- Jayal, N. G. 2007, 'The Role of Civil Society', in Ganguly, S. et. al.(eds.), *The State of India's Democracy*, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Fernandes, Leela. 2006, *India's New Middle Class. Democratic Politics in an Era of Economic Reform*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, Ch.5-'Liberalization, democracy, and middle class politics', pp.173-205.