

Course Information

Please, note that this syllabus is subject to changes.

Course Number: PS145A

Course Name: Making Democracy Work: Lessons from India

Course Instructor: Dr. Pradeep Chhibber

Graduate Student Instructor (GSI): Vasundhara Sirnate

Office Hours

TBD

Course Credits

Four (4) semester credits

What is this course about?

Much has been written and said about the link between democracy and development, religious and ethnic fragmentation. When India gained independence from British Rule in 1947, observers noted that the likelihood of the new country remaining democratic was limited. Yet, India proved such observers wrong and remained one of the world's most thriving democracies for over 60 years, and, in doing so offered a puzzle for many political scientists.

How did a country with hundreds of social, economic, ethnic and linguistic cleavages manage to remain democratic, when other countries with lesser amounts of such diversity were collapsing? How did a country with the world's largest poor population and slow rates of development consolidate a democracy? How did India, with a history of social discrimination against former untouchables (now called dalits) and women, implement corrective mechanisms to improve the conditions of marginalized groups and give them political representation and voice.

Of course, none of this history has been perfect. However, with every political tension that arose, the Indian state also responded in different ways. Sometimes it repressed its people; sometimes it created new mechanisms and institutions to channel dissent. But the 'system' endured for six and a half decades.

In this course you will engage in a deep, historical institutional analysis about the conditions that have allowed the Indian state to remain democratic. To explain Indian democracy we will look at various institutional mechanisms, elite bargaining, the deployment of force, accommodation of regional leaders and their political aspirations, economic development and the constant reconfiguration of caste, party and religious alliances.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to

- describe and explain how institutions are set up to govern deeply diverse societies;
- analyze the transformation of caste and assess the impact of democratic institutions on caste;
- explore the interaction between democratic institutions and India's varied religious interests;
- analyze the role of tribes in insurgencies and armed conflicts;

- analyze the impact of centralization of power in the separatist and secessionist movements; and
- recognize political parties and evaluate how party politics and elections create and impact India's democratic institutions.

Textbook and Materials

- Course Reader: This is an online course reader you will be able to purchase after you start the course.

Multimedia lectures in each module.

Additional videos and other materials as provided by the instructor.

Learning Activities

This is a six-module, seminar-style course. As such it includes a substantial amount of readings, which will be available in the Course Reader, weekly discussions, and quizzes to assess your knowledge of facts and concepts from the readings and lectures. A course project and a proctored final exam will also be included.

Module 1: The Idea of India

- The Idea of India
- The State's Role in Economic Development
- The Case for Democracy: Resolving Competition and Inequality through Institutions
- Making a Democratic Nation State
- The Constitution: Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles
- Federalism
- Main Institutions: Parliament, President, Prime Minister, Governor
- Institutions: Electoral System, Elections
- Electoral Politics

Module 2: Caste and Its Relation to Democracy

- Explaining *Caste* and Jati
 - History of Reservations
 - Effect of reservations
 - The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)
 - The Other Backward Classes
 - Backward Class Politics in Northern India
 - Trends in Upper Caste Politics

Module 3: Democracy and Religion

- Secularism and Religion in India
- Individual Rights versus Group Identities
- Political Violence and Religion
- The Rise of the Bharatiya Janta Party
- Understanding Political Violence
- Religion and Democracy
- Religious Practice and Representation
- Religious Conversions: Tribes in India

Module 4: The Politics of Tribes in India

- Who are India's tribes?
- Tribal Insurgent Movements In India: Maoists of Chhattisgarh

Module 5: Separatism and Secessionism

- Kashmir
- Punjab
- Mizoram and Nagaland

Module 6: Party Politics and Elections

- One Party Dominance: The Congress System
- Social Cleavages and Parties
- Fragmentation in the Party System
- Regional Parties
- Dynastic Parties

Grading

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

Discussion Assignments	10%
Quizzes (6)	30%
Project	20%
Final Exam	40%

You must pass the final exam in order to pass the course. All of your written assignments will be graded on a 100-point scale according to the following criteria.

The rubric below gives you an idea of levels of competence.

Grading Rubric

	Poor	Needs Improvement	Meets Expectations	Exceptional
Content	Poor writing style with little or no specific details, no evidence of having studied the material, and/or off topic.	Adequately written; some points elaborated but with minimal use of concepts from the material.	Well written, most points elaborated with clear and detailed information that supports thoughts and ideas and uses	Well written, fully elaborates points. Clear and detailed information supports thoughts and ideas and shows full acquisition of

			concepts from the material.	concepts from the material.
Organization and Mechanics	Little or no structure present. Grammatical errors interfere with comprehension.	Organization present but awkward. Some grammatical errors present.	Good organization with few statements out of place. Minor grammatical errors.	Clearly organized and remains focused. Few or no grammatical errors.
Participation	Minimal posts in number or length. Posts show little or no reflection on the topics or previous posts.	Posts address the topic but consist mostly of a rote repetition of the study materials. Little or no reflection on previous posts.	Posts address the topic with reflection. Many responses build on previous posts.	Posts show a genuine interest in contributing to the overall life of the forum.

Your grades for assignments are recorded in the course gradebook, and you can see them by clicking on the **Report** tab. Your final grade, however, will not appear online. **Your final letter grade will be mailed to you by the registrar's office.** Final grades are assigned according to the following percentages.

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Percentage	100-94	93-90	89-86	85-83	82-80	79-76	75-73	72-70	69-66	65-63	62-60	< 60

Policies

Late Work

One-third of a grade will be docked for every day an assignment is late.

Students with Disabilities

Any students requiring course accommodations due to a physical, emotional, or learning disability must contact the Disabled Students' Program (DSP),

<http://dsp.berkeley.edu/services.html>, at the beginning of the course with their request. The DSP will review all requests on an individual basis.