Course Description

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 has remained one of the world’s most thriving democracies for over 60 years. Contemporary Indian politics, like electoral politics in many parts of the world, has taken a rightward turn. For a very long time India was governed by a centrist party (or a coalition) led by the Congress Party. The elections of 2014 and 2019 changed all that. A Hindu right party –the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is in power in Delhi and in many states of India. For some the rise of the right signals the end of the politics of accommodation in India. The rise of right poses a puzzle for many political scientists who ask how did a country with multiple social, economic, ethnic, linguistic, and religious cleavages elect a Hindu right party to power? Why did the centrist politics of the Congress fail? Is it the Congress Party that has declined or is it that accommodative politics no longer has a place in India? We cannot answer any of these questions without a knowledge of India’s institutions and societal makeup. The first part of the course is therefore designed to provide everyone with a common yet thorough understanding of some of the basic facts about India. In the second part of the course we will examine the causes behind the rise of the political right in India.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Describe and explain how institutions are set up to govern deeply diverse societies
- Explore the interaction between democratic institutions in federal systems
- Assess social conflict and transformation
- Evaluate how party politics and elections influence democratic institutions
- Understand the electoral success of a right-wing party
Instructor/GSI Information and Communication

Course Instructor: Prof. Pradeep Chhibber

Prof. Chhibber will interact with the whole class and will oversee all activities and grading. He will also be available to resolve any issues that may arise, but the GSIs will be your immediate contact and direct instructors for this course

GSIs

Bhumi Purohit: bhumi.purohit@berkeley.edu
Pranav Gupta: pranavgupta@berkeley.edu

Office Hours

Office hours will be regularly offered both in-person and via Zoom video conferencing, to be announced at least 24 hours in advance.

Course Email

Make sure to check the Course Mail for messages from the instructor. You can access course email within the Learning Management System by clicking on the Inbox link or choose to have your course mail forwarded to your personal email account or your cell phone. Always communicate with your professor and GSI via Course Mail. Messages sent to personal email addresses may not receive a response.

Course Materials and Technical Requirements

Required Materials

All readings required for the course are provided under each module (PDF files). The course does not require purchase of any book. Additional videos and other materials as provided by the instructor and the GSIs shall be available on bCourses.

Technical Requirements

This course is built on a Learning Management system (LMS) called Canvas and you will need to meet these computer specifications to participate on this online platform.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulties please alert the GSIs immediately. However, understand that neither the GSIs, nor the professor can assist you with technical problems. You must call or email technical support and make sure you resolve any issues immediately. Be sure to document (save emails and transaction numbers) for all interactions with technical support. Extensions and late submissions will not be accepted due to “technical difficulties.”
Learning Activities

You won’t be able to access your course material until you read and make your pledge to Academic Integrity within bCourses. You are expected to actively participate in all the course activities listed here.

- Read the assigned readings
- Watch and/or listen to the lecture presentations
- Read web-based announcements and postings assigned during the course
- Complete writing assignments and quizzes
- Complete the final exam

Modules

Each module includes assigned readings relevant to each topic covered in that module. You will find links to PDFs on the Learning Activities page for each module.

Multimedia Lectures

Each module includes multiple video lectures/conversations by Prof. Chhibber and other experts on the various topics of the course, as well as slides which you can open as PDFs. In order to make the most of the material, start by doing the readings, then watch the video lectures and use the slides as highlights.

Take notes as needed while viewing the lectures and write down any questions that these conversations raise for you. You can use the Questions & Answers forum in the course to post your questions and discuss them with your classmates.

Questions and Answers Forum

Please use this forum to post questions about the course or topics being studied. The questions will be answered in the forum by the course instructor or GSIs. This way, all students benefit from seeing the answers. This is the preferred place to ask and get answers to questions that are likely to be of general interest. The course instructor and/or the GSIs will strive to provide responses to your queries within 24 hours.

Grading and Assessment

Grading in the course will be based on online class participation, four quizzes, two op-eds/response papers, and a final exam.
Quizzes
Most modules include a quiz that must be completed and submitted within 72 hours of the completion of the module. Refer to the calendar for all due dates. You may take the quiz only once. There is a set period of time to complete each quiz. (See each quiz for details.) You have quizzes due on the dates outlined below.

Op-ed Response Projects
We encourage you to develop your own ideas on the topic while responding to the arguments made by the authors. You must also engage with the reading materials provided for this course.

The answer should be typed and printed (font size 12, double-spaced). It should not exceed 750 words. Please stick to this word-limit.

Online Class Participation
To help prepare you for the op-ed response project, and to help build an online community about themes in the course, you will be asked to participate on a discussion forum every week. Each week, an op-ed from an Indian newspaper or digital publication will be posted online. Each student must post at least once per week and: a) make a comment about the op-ed ideally informed from your understanding of the course material, b) ask a question based on the op-ed, and c) answer a question of one of your peers.

We will grade these responses by the end of the following week. This will count for your class participation. Each student will receive a check/check plus/check minus for each week. Each week’s forum will be timestamped and locked after a week so it is important to post at the appropriate time.

Final Exam
This includes a 2-hour online exam. The final exam can be taken anytime on August 12, 12:01 AM - 11:59 PM PST. We will release three questions on August 5th. Each of you will be randomly assigned one of these three questions on August 12th. Once you open the question, you will have two hours to type out your answer and submit it. Prior to the exam, you are free to consult the instructor and GSIs about the questions. We will not read any draft responses. Answers should be between 1000-1500 words. There will be no make-up exam. Students must take the final examination on August 12th.

Late Work Policy
One-third of a letter grade will be docked for every day an assignment is late. This does NOT apply for the final exam. An assignment is marked late if it is turned in 10 minutes after the due date. There are NO exceptions to this rule.
Final Grade

Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:

- Online Participation (20%)
- Quizzes (20%)
- Response Papers/Op-eds (30%)
- Final Exam (30%)

It is important to note that not all components are graded online and included in the online course grade book. Because of this, the online course grade book will not display your overall course grade at any given time or your final grade. It should simply be used to assess your performance on the components that are included within it: the discussions, written assignments and midterm exam. Your final letter grade will be mailed to you by the registrar’s office.

Important Dates

- Quiz 1: Due on July 5, 2020
- Op-ed/Response paper 1: Due on July 12, 2020
- Quiz 2: Due on July 26, 2020
- Op-ed/Response paper 2: Due on August 2, 2020
- Quiz 3: Due on August 9, 2020
- Final Exam on August 12, 2020

Course Policies

Promptness

The quizzes and the oped response assignment have specific final due dates and times. You will not receive full credit if assignments are submitted after the indicated due date.

Further, each online activity must be submitted through the course website by the due date. Fax or mail submission will not be accepted. Students who wait until the final hours prior to a submission deadline risk having problems with their ISP, hardware, software, or various other site access difficulties. Therefore, it is advisable to submit assignments and tests through the course website early. The multiple days allowed for submission are to accommodate the busy schedules of working professionals, not to accommodate procrastination. Students should plan accordingly and get into the habit of checking the course website several times each week, and submitting and posting early.
Collaboration and Independence

Reviewing lecture and reading materials and studying for exams can be enjoyable and enriching things to do with fellow students. This is recommended. However, unless otherwise instructed, homework assignments and the online exam are to be completed independently and materials submitted as homework should be the result of one’s own independent work.

Cheating

A good lifetime strategy is always to act in such a way that no one would ever imagine that you would even consider cheating. Anyone caught cheating on a quiz or exam in this course will receive a failing grade in the course and will also be reported to the University Center for Student Conduct. The expectation is that you will be honest in the taking of exams.

Plagiarism

To copy text or ideas from another source without appropriate reference is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for your assignment and usually further disciplinary action. For additional information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, explore the following resources:

- UC Berkeley Library Citation Page, Plagiarism Section
- GSI Guide for Preventing Plagiarism

Academic Integrity and Ethics

The student community at UC Berkeley has adopted the following Honor Code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." The expectation is that you will adhere to this code.

Cheating on exams and plagiarism are two common examples of dishonest, unethical behavior. Honesty and integrity are of great importance in all facets of life. They help to build a sense of self-confidence, and are key to building trust within relationships, whether personal or professional. There is no tolerance for dishonesty in academia, for it undermines what we are dedicated to doing - furthering knowledge for the benefit of humanity.

Incomplete Course Grade

Students who have substantially completed the course but for serious extenuating circumstances, are unable to complete the final exam, may request an Incomplete grade. This request must be submitted in writing or by email to the GSI and course instructor. You must provide verifiable documentation for the seriousness of the extenuating circumstances. According to the policy of the college, "Incomplete grades received in the fall must be completed by the first day of instruction of the following fall semester. Those received in the spring or summer must be completed by the first day of instruction of the following spring semester. Failure to meet deadlines will result in the assignment of an F or an NP grade for the course."
Student with Disabilities

If you require course accommodations due to a physical, emotional, or learning disability contact the UC Berkeley’s Disabled Students’ Program (DSP).

Notify the instructor and GSI through course mail and inform them which accommodations you would like to use. You must contact the instructor and GSI before an assignment due date to receive your accommodation. Extensions will not be applied retroactively.

UC Berkeley is committed to providing robust educational experiences for all learners. With this goal in mind, we have activated the ALLY tool for this course. You will now be able to download content in a format that best fits your learning preference. PDF, HTML, EPUB and MP3 are now available for most content items. For more information visit the alternative formats link or watch the video entitled, "Ally First Steps Guide."

Course End Date

Your access to the online classroom will expire on August 14th at midnight, which is indicated in the initial e-mail you received when you enrolled.

As you work through the course, please keep August 14th in mind, and if you want to save any commentary or assignments for future reference, please make sure to print or copy/paste those materials before your access ends.

End of Course Evaluation

Before your course end date, please take a few minutes to participate in the Course Evaluation to share your opinions about the course.

The evaluation does not request any personal information, and your responses will remain strictly confidential. A link to the evaluation will be made available via bCourses on August 2nd, 2019 and will be available until August 15th, 2019. You will also be emailed a link to the course evaluation.

To access the course evaluation via bCourses:

1. Enter the course in bCourses
2. Choose Course Evaluation from the left-hand navigation menu.
3. Complete evaluation and submit.
Course Schedule

Module 1: 6/22 - 7/5: The Ideas of India, Democracy and Institutions

1. Introduction
   - Readings:
     - Film: The Story of India. Episode 6. (Link).
     - Video: India’s 2019 Election Panel. Pradeep Chhibber and Milan Vaishnav. 0:00 - 39:23. (Link)
   - Lectures:
     - Introduction (12:03)

2. The Ideas of India
   - The Case for Democracy
   - Ideological contestations shaping Indian politics
   - Readings:
   - Lectures:
     - The Idea of India (12:58)
     - Consequences of idea of India (4:56)
     - Ideology and Ideas of India (18:23)
     - Why Democracy (13:00)

3. Indian Constitution
   - Readings:

4. India’s Political Institutions
   - Readings:

**Lectures:**
– India’s Main Democratic Institutions (9:23)
– The Legislature in India (15:16)

**Module 2: 7/6 - 7/12: Accommodating Caste**

1. **Explaining Caste and *Jati***
   - Caste over the years
   - The history and effects of reservations/quotas
   - **Readings:**
   - **Lectures:**
     – Accommodating caste (8:20)
     – Do reservations help? (18:22)

2. **Caste Politics in India**
   - **Readings:**
     – Podcast: Grand Tamasha S3:E5 Milan Vaishnav in conversation with Amit Ahuja (Link)

**Module 3: 7/13 - 7/19: Democracy and Religion**

1. **Secularism in a Religious Society**
   - **Readings:**
2. Muslim Politics in India

- Readings:

- Lectures:
  - Muslims in India (4:11)

3. Religious and Political Violence

- Readings:

- Lectures:
  - Hindu Muslim Riots (16:25)

Module 4: 7/20 - 7/26: Gender in India

1. Gender Divide in India

- Readings:
  - Film: India’s Missing Girls. BBC Documentary. (Link)

- Lectures:
  - Gender Divide in India (24:04)

2. Women in Politics

- Readings:
  - Podcast: Podcast: Lakshmi Iyer. VoxDev Talks. "Where are Indian Female Politicians?" (Link)
Module 5: 7/27 - 8/2: Party Politics and Elections

1. Political Parties in India

   - Readings:

   - Lectures:
     - Congress Party (3:16)
     - Regional Parties (24:59)
     - BJP (10:39)

2. Changing Party System in India

   - Readings:

   - Lectures:
     - Party System (5:20)
     - Indian Party System (4:29)

Module 6: 8/3 - 8/12: India Today

1. Rise of Right

   - Readings:

   - Lectures:
     - Rise of Right (9:54)
2. BJP in Power

• Readings:
  – Video: Kashmir - The State The Status by Srinath Raghavan. (Link)

• Lectures:
  – India Post 2019 (14:56)

3. Changing India

• Readings:
  – Snigdha Poonam. 2019. "Small City, Big Dreams" (Link)
  – Sanya Dhingra. 2018. "When patriarchy meets smartphone pornography: Why tiny Haryana is India’s rape capital" (Link)

Final Exam on August 12, 2020 (Online)