CORE-4: POLITICAL PROCESS IN INDIA

Course objective: Actual politics in India diverges quite significantly from constitutional legal rules. An understanding of the political process thus calls for a different mode of analysis - that offered by political sociology. This course maps the working of ‘modern’ institutions, premised on the existence of an individuated society, in a context marked by communitarian solidarities, and their mutual transformation thereby. It also familiarizes students with the working of the Indian state, paying attention to the contradictory dynamics of modern state power.

I. Political Parties and the Party System (1.5 weeks or 6 lectures)
Trends in the Party System; From the Congress System to Multi-Party Coalitions

II. Determinants of Voting Behaviour (2 weeks or 8 lectures)
Caste, Class, Gender and Religion

III. Regional Aspirations (2 weeks or 8 lectures)
The Politics of Secession and Accommodation

IV. Religion and Politics (2 weeks or 8 lectures)
Debates on Secularism; Minority and Majority Communalism

V. Caste and Politics (1.5 weeks or 6 lectures)
Caste in Politics and the Politicization of Caste

VI. Affirmative Action Policies (1.5 weeks or 6 lectures)
Women, Caste and Class

VII. The Changing Nature of the Indian State (1.5 weeks or 6 lectures)
Developmental, Welfare and Coercive Dimensions

READING LIST

I. Political Parties and the Party System: Trends in the Party System; From the Congress System to Multi-Party Coalitions
Essential Readings:

Additional Reading:

II. Determinants of Voting Behaviour: Caste, Class, Gender and Religion
Essential Readings:

III. Regional Aspirations: The Politics of Secession and Accommodation
Essential Readings:

IV. Religion and Politics: Debates on Secularism: Minority and Majority Communalism
Essential Readings:

Additional Reading:

V. Caste and Politics: Caste in Politics and the Politicization of Caste
Essential Readings:

VI. Affirmative Action Policies: Women, Caste and Class
Essential Readings:


Essential Readings:

Additional Readings: