

Course Number:	HS537
Course Name:	Post-Reform India: Polity, Society and Economy
Credits:	3-0-0-3
Prerequisites:	None
Intended for:	Ph.D./Masters/ B. Tech. (3rd and 4th Year)
Distribution:	Discipline Elective for M.A. Development Studies, HSS Free Elective for B.Tech. and Free Elective for others
Semester:	Odd/Even

1. **Preamble:** We all say, “India of 21st century is a new India”. This course stimulates and encourages students to explore and ask: What is this new India of 21st Century? Who constitutes it and what is it constituted of? Is it a globalising and urbanising India whose economy and polity are shaped in cities and private enclaves? Is it an India of the new middle class that has an insatiable propensity to consume? Is it an India of toiling population groups and their impoverished everyday contestations with the State agents and market processes? Is it a turbulent India defined by contestations around religious, regional, linguistic or caste affiliations? Is it a confident and connected India exposed to the world through new media equipments and networks? The India of the new millennium is one ‘of contradictions’, ‘poverty amidst plenty’ and ‘polarised maximums’ produced by a variety of events, processes, institutions, agents, networks, technologies, discourses and rhetoric. Exploring these contradictions, this course moves around the interplay among the triad: economy, polity and society; and how specific events and processes of the 1980s and 1990s – local and global – have shaped political economy of this new India. The course locates discourses of empowerment, development, citizenship, mobility and marginalization; and how these are shaped around mobilisation and contestations of gender, caste, class, religion and region. The course helps students identify and establish interconnections among multiple events and processes that lead to the emergence of new strands in political economy and gave rise to new actors, sites and methods that define India of the new millennium. The course identifies events and processes of the late 1980s and early 1990s, and then goes on to explore continuities and changes in institutions, processes and sites that rotate around and shape political economy in the post-reform period in India. The course exposes students to nature of events, key agents and processes leading to various transformations in economy, polity and social structure. It equips students with contemporary debates of development, and help analyse and develop critical visions to understand the nature of transformations in post-reform India.

2. Course Modules:

Module I. Before and After the 1990 (10 hours)

- a. **Market:** Structural Adjustment Program and economic liberalisation
- b. **Mandir-Masjid:** Hindutva movement and idea of 'secular' State
- c. **Mandal:** Other Backward Classes and politics of/over reservation
- d. **Media:** Expansion and deepening of media
- e. **Mobilisation:** Politics and assertions

Module II. State, Governance and Management of Development (10 hours)

- a. Paradox of Development: India vs. Bharat
- b. Policies and politics of governance
- c. Bureaucracy and Governmentality
- d. International Conventions and new legal mechanisms

Module III. Nature of Conflicts (8 hours)

- a. Sectarian conflicts and Ethnic Violence
- b. Reconfiguration of histories
- c. Old and New contestant: NRIs and Indian Middle Class
- d. Conflict over Development: unions, projects, acquisition and beneficiaries

Module IV. Legal Frameworks and Development Goals (8 hours)

- a. Environment and ecology: international conventions and national policies
- b. Right to Education: from NEP to RTE
- c. Employment: as guarantee; contractual jobs and entrepreneurship
- d. Women's Health, Security and Development

Module V. Arenas of empowerment and enfeeblement (6 hours)

- a. Instruments, Institutions and National Commissions
- b. Vocabularies and Dimensions of: inequalities, discriminations, deprivations
- c. Assessing ideas of Democracy, Citizenship and Mobilities in post-reform period

3. Textbooks:

1. John, Mary M, Praveen Kumar Jha and Surinder Singh Jodhka (eds.). 2006. *Contested Transformations: Changing Economies and Identities in Contemporary India*. New Delhi: Tulika Books.
2. Ruparelia, Sanjay et. al. 2011. *Understanding India's New Political Economy: A Great Transformation?*. London: Routledge.
3. Corbridge, Stuart, John Harris and Craig Jeffrey (2012). *India Today: Economy, Politics and Society*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

4. References:

1. Thapar, Romila (ed.). 2000. *India: Another Millennium*. Delhi: Penguin
2. Deshpande, Satish. 2004. *Contemporary India: A Sociological View*. Delhi: Penguin
3. Gupta, Akhil and K. Sivaramakrishnan (eds.). 2012. *The State in India after Liberalization*.

New York: Routledge

4. Reddy, Ram Manohar. *How is India Doing*. Guhan Memorial Lecture
5. Dreze, Jean and Amartya Sen. 1995. *India: economic development and social opportunity*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
6. Corbridge, Stuart and John Harriss. 2000. *Reinventing India: liberalization, Hindu nationalism and popular democracy*. Cambridge: Polity Press
7. Bhargava, Rajiv. 2013. Reimagining Secularism: respect, domination and principled distance. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Pp 79-92
8. Ram, Nandu (ed.). 2008. *Dalits in contemporary India: discrimination and discontent*. New Delhi: Siddhant Publications. pp 37-64
9. Kohli, Atul. 2009. *Democracy and Development in India: From Socialism to Pro-Business*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
10. Jaffrelot, Christophe. 2000. 'The rise of the other backward classes in the Hindi belt'. *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 59(1):86-108
11. Saeed, Saima (2013) *Screening the Public Sphere: Media and Democracy in India*, New Delhi: Routledge.
12. Ganguly-Scrase, R and T.J. Scrase (2009) *Globalization and the Middle Classes in India: The Social and Cultural Impacts of Neo-liberal Reforms*, London: Routledge
13. Aslany, M. (2019) "The Indian Middle Class, its Size, and Urban-Rural Variations," *Contemporary South Asia*, Vol. 27 (2), pp.196-213.
14. Sharma, Aradhana (2006) "Crossbreeding Institutions, Breeding Struggle: Women's Empowerment, Neoliberal Governmentality, and State (Re)Formation in India," *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol.21 (1), pp.60-95.
15. Sharma, Aradhana (2008) *Logics of Empowerment: Development, Gender and Governance in Neoliberal India*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
16. Levien, M. (2018) *Dispossession without Development: Land Grabs in Neoliberal India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
17. Nielsen, Kenneth and Alf G. Nilsen (2016) *Social Movements and the State in India: Deepening Democracy?* London: Palgrave.
18. Gupta, Akhil (2012) *Red Tape: Bureaucracy, Structural Violence and Poverty in India*, Hyderabad: orient Blackswan.

19. Sahu, Geetanjay (2014) Environmental Jurisprudence and the Supreme Court: Litigation, Interpretation, Implementation, Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan.
20. Muenster, Daniel and Christian Struempell (2013) “The Anthropology of Neoliberal India: An Introduction,” Contributions to Indian Sociology (Special Issue), Vol.48 (1), December, pp.1-16
21. Dreze, Jean and Amartya Sen. 2013. An Uncertain Glory: India and its Contradictions. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
22. Kohli, Atul. 2012. Poverty amid Plenty in the New India: Politics, Economics and Inequality. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

5. Similarity Content Declaration with Existing

5. Similarity Content Declaration with Existing Courses:

S. No.	Course Code	Similarity Content	Approx. % of Content
1	HS471	All submodules of Introduction (Module I); State and paradox of development (Module II) Reconfiguration of histories (Module III a) Sectarian and Ethnic Violence (Module III b) NRI and Indian Middle Class (Module 111 c) Inequalities, Deprivation and Discrimination (Module V b)	50%

6. Justification for new course proposal if cumulative similarity content is > 30%: