

Approval: 10th Senate Meeting

Course Number: HS 471

Course Name: Contemporary India

Credits: 3-0-0-3

Prerequisites: no

Intended for: 3rd and 4th Year B.Tech/PhD

Distribution: Elective for HSS

Semester: Odd/Even

Preamble: Change is an ongoing process. However, certain events and processes bring in shifts in the existing structures. Since the last couple of decades, India has seen significant changes in almost all the spheres and institutions. Multiple processes, though not unconnected, have transformed the nature of Indian economy, polity and society. Nevertheless, there is no single theory/concept that potentially encompasses multiple trajectories of changes that India saw in political, economic and social realms. To some extent, terms such as globalization has been used to discuss various aspects of changes but it remains contested. This course is designed to expose students to various transformations, changes and processes and how they have shaped/are shaping India in contemporary times. The course is designed around contestations, conflicts, coalitions and cooperation that have taken a shape under the pressures of economic globalization and market liberalization, religious and political mobilizations, changes in political institutions and governance, deepening role of media and how they affect people's lives.

Course Outline:

The course comprises of FIVE units dealing with specific themes and cover important events. The course exposes students to the nature of events, key agents and transformations in Indian society since the early 1990s. It also discusses “critical events” and their linkages with economic, political and social transformations. It equips students with the contemporary debates and help them analyze and develop critical visions to understand the nature of transformations.

Course Modules:

1. Critical Events (6 Hours)

- a. The Year 1991: A decisive move towards economic liberalization
- b. Coalition politics and assertive presence of Regional Political Parties
- c. The Mandal Commission Report: Aftermath
- d. Debates on Indian secularism in the 1980s
- e. Hindutva movement, ethnic violence and minority politics
- f. Expansion and Deepening role of Visual Media

2. State, Governance and Political Structure (8 Hours)

- a. Economic Liberalization and Economic Growth (India and state level), Institutional Changes for Policy Delivery, and Emerging Nature of State in the New Economy
- b. Nature of Party System, Federalism, new forms of political mobilization
- c. Political Decentralization and deepening democracy
- d. Newer forms of decentralization and variety of local formal institutions

3. Religion and Culture (8 Hours)

- a. secularism and secularization
- b. (re)casting and (re)construction of social history
- c. religious effervescence and identity: minority and majority debate
- d. religious and ethnic violence
- e. religious market

4. Transnationalism and New Spaces for Socio-Economic Articulation (10 Hours)

- a. transnationalism and cosmopolitanism
- b. spaces for consumption and spaces of consumption
- c. virtual spaces and digital technology
- d. spaces at margins
- e. new spaces— inclusion and marginalization

5. Socio-Political Groups and Ideologies: Old and New (10 Hours)

- a. Trade Unions, New Forms of Trade Unionism and Business Interest Groups
- b. Old and New Social Movements
- c. NRIs, Indian Middle Class and New Middle Class
- d. Youth in Contemporary India: Demographic Dividends, Aspirations and

Aspects of mobilities

References:

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