

MANGALORE UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science

PSS 504: THE IDEA OF INDIA

Course Objectives:

1. Develop among Students informed and critical perspectives on India
2. Introduce them to academic discourses on Indian history, Society, politics and culture
3. Enable them to engage critically in debates on Contemporary India
4. Help students to recognise and grapple with divergent and, at times, contradictory perspectives on India

Course Outcomes: The course will enable students to –

1. Recognise the plural ways of imaging India
2. Evolve an informed position vis-a-vis conflicting perceptions on the idea of India
3. Uphold inclusive and democratic idea of India
4. Able to establish a framework for understanding contemporary India.

Block I: India in Historical Outline; Methodological and historical issues

Unit 1 The Orientalist and Nationalist Reconstructions of Indian History

Unit 2 Marxist and Post colonial Perspectives on India

Unit 3 India's Philosophical Traditions

Unit 4 India: Contemporary Perspectives from outside

Block II: The Making of Modern India

Unit 5 Restructuring Indian Society: the Social Reform Traditions and Discourses

Unit 6 The Nationalist Movement: the emergence of the Idea of India

Unit 7 The Framing of the Indian Constitution

Unit 8 The Philosophy of the Indian Constitution: Values and Institutions

Block III: Identity Politics and Social Movements

Unit 9 Caste, Class and Gender

Unit 10 Religion, Region and Language

Unit 11 Social Movement: Old and New

Unit 12 Culture, Inequality and the politics of exclusion

Block IV: Issues in Debate

Unit 13 The Political: Democracy and Secularism

Unit 14 The Social: Justice, Equity and Empowerment

Unit 15 The Economic: Development and Environment

Unit 16: The Civic: Civil Society and Public Sphere

Essential Readings

1. Khilnani, Sunil., *The Idea of India*, New Delhi: Penguin, 2012.
2. Panikkar, K. N., *Colonialism, Culture and Resistance*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2007.
3. Sheth, D.L. and Nandy, Ashis., *The Multiverse of Democracy*, New Delhi: Sage, 1996.
4. Limbha, Ania., *Colonialism/Post-Colonialism*, London: Routledge, 1998.
5. Thapar, Romila., *The Past as Present: Forging Contemporary Identities through History*, Aleph Book, 2014.
6. Vinit, Achin & Bhargava, Rajeev., *Understanding Contemporary India*, Orient Blackswan, 2010

Suggested Readings

1. Chatterjee, Partha., ed., *State and Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1997.
2. Kotahri, Rajani., *State Against Democracy: In Search of Human Governance*, New Delhi: Ajanta, 1988.
3. Nilekani, Nandan., *The Idea of a Renewed Nation*, Penguin Publications, 2010.
4. Parekh, Bikhu., *Colonialism, Tradition and Reform: Analysis of Gandhi's Political Discourse*, New Delhi: Sage Publication, 1989.
5. Said, Edward., *Orientalism*, New York: Vintage Books, 1979
6. Mehta, Pratap Banu and Jayal, Nirja Gopal, *Oxford companion to Indian politics*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2010
7. Sen, Amartya, ed., *Reimagining India and other essays*, Orient Blackswan, 2010
8. Guha, Ramachandra., *India after Gandhi*, London, Macmillan, 2011
9. Kaviraj, Sudipta., *The unhappy consciousness: Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay and the formation of nationalist discourse in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1995
10. Kaviraj, Sudipta., *Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1997