

PSH 502: POLITICS OF IDENTITY IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce students to the linkages between Society and Politics
2. To enable students to understand various agencies and processes involved in the construction of identities
3. To make students engage with identity politics to grasp the complexities and contradictions in Indian society
4. To enable students to understand the changing contours of Indian society

Course Outcomes:

The course will equip students to –

1. Comprehend the bases of identity construction in India
2. Grasp the nature of claims and stakes involved in identity politics
3. Be theoretically sound and to take appropriate positions on socially sensitive issues
4. Comprehend the relation between identity and political goods/resources.

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Concept and Significance of the Study
- 1.2 Identity-Primordial, Ascriptive, Constructivism
- 1.3 Identity and Politics of Identity
- 1.4 Socio-psychological designs of Identity

UNIT 2: IDENTITY –BASES AND ARTICULATION

- 2.1 Marginalisation, Inequality and deprivation –Perception and real
- 2.2 Individual vs. Group; Ascriptive vs. Hereditary; Single vs. Multiple identities
- 2.3 Ethnicity and Modernisation and Globalisation; Inclusion vs. exclusion
- 2.4 Negative (Victimisation) and positive (interest/right based) bases identity

UNIT 3: ASSERTION OF IDENTITY – FACTORS AND FORMS

- 3.1 Identity construction and public goods
- 3.2 National, Regional, Linguistic and Cultural
- 3.3 Communal, Fundamentalist
- 3.4 Feminist, Tribal, Displaced and refugees

UNIT 4: RESPONSES TO IDENTITY ASSERTIONS

- 4.1 State and Public Policies; Political Parties; International actors
- 4.2 Civil Society – NGOs, Media and Public Opinion
- 4.3 Identity and Politics of exclusion, Identity and violence
- 4.4 Individual and group identity vs Public good

Basic Readings:

1. Brass, Paul R., *Ethnicity and Nationalism: Theory and Comparison*, Delhi: Sage, 1991.
2. Brown, Rupert., "Social Identity Theory: Past Achievements, Current Problems and Future Challenges." *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 30 (6): 745-78, 2000.
3. Fearon, James, D., *What is Identity (As We Now Use the Word)?* Stanford: Stanford University, 1999.
4. Hutchinson, John and Smith, Anthony, D., eds., *Ethnicity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.
5. Parekh, Bikhu., *A New Politics of Identity Political principles for an Interdependent World*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Suggested Readings:

1. Aloysius, G. *Nationalism without a nation in India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1992.
2. Anderson, Benedict., *Imagined communities, Reflections on the Origins and spread of Nationalism*, London: Verso, 1983
3. Brar, Bhupinder, Kumar, Ashutosh and Ram, Ronki, eds., *Globalisation and the Politics of Identity in India*, Delhi, Pearson, 2008.
4. Brewer, Marilynn B., "The Psychology of Prejudice: Ingroup Love or Outgroup Hate?" *Journal of Social Issues* 55 (3): 429-44, 1999.
5. Chandra, Kanchan., "Ethnic Parties and Democratic Stability," *Perspectives on Politics* 3 (2): 235-52, 2005.
6. Eriksen, Hylland, Thomas., *Ethnicity and Nationalism*, London: Pluto Press, 1993.
7. Fearon, James, D. and David D. Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity." *International Organization* 54 (4): 845- 77
8. Fox, Jonathan., "The Rise of Religious Nationalism and Conflict: Ethnic Conflict and Revolutionary Wars, 1945-2011." *Journal of Peace Research* 41 (6): 715-31, 2004.
9. Forbes, Geraldine., *New Cambridge History of India*, Cambridge University Press, 1998.
10. Giesen, Bernahard., *Intellectuals and the nation, Collective Identity in a German axial age*, Cambridge University Press, 1998.
11. Hutchinson, John. and Smith, Anthony, D., eds., *Nationalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994.
12. Varshney, Ashutosh., *Ethnic Conflict and Civic life : Hindus and Muslims in India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2002.
13. Weiner, Myron., *Indian Paradox, Essays on Indian Politics*, New Delhi, Sage, 1989.