

**LG:645-CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE  
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY**

**M.PHIL. OPTIONAL COURSE**

**Course Title: Political Anthropology in South Asia**

**Course Instructors: Pratiksha Baxi and Niraja Gopal Jayal**

**Course Credits: 3**

**Course Content:**

1. An Anthropology of Politics: Nature and Scope
2. Some Basic Concepts:
  - a) The State
  - b) Power and Authority
  - c) Governmentality
  - d) Ideology and Resistance
3. Ethnographies of the State:
  - a) Bureaucracy
  - b) Corruption
  - c) Populations
4. Development:
  - a) Development and the Welfare State
  - b) Development as Violence
5. Citizenship:
  - a) Cultural Citizenship
  - b) Domestic Citizenship
  - c) Biological Citizenship
6. Democracy

## **Reading List:**

### **Readers on Political Anthropology**

- Eric R. Wolf, *Pathways of Power: Building an Anthropology of the Modern World*, 2001, California
- Joan Vincent, ed. *The Anthropology of Politics, Reader*, Blackwell, 2002.
- Ted Lewellen, *Political Anthropology: an Introduction*. London: Praeger Publishers, 2003.
- Veena Das, ed. (1999) *The Oxford India Companion to Sociology and Social Anthropology*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press

### **1. Genealogies of Political Anthropology**

Herzfel, Michael (2000) *Anthropology: theoretical practice in culture and society*, Blackwell, Massachusetts, 200, chapters 1 and 12

M. Fortes and EE Evans-Pritchard (1940/1969) "Introduction," and EE Evans Pritchard, "The Nuer," in *African Political Systems*, Oxford. pp. 1-24, 272-296

L. Mair (1962) Introduction, *Primitive Government*, Indiana. pp. 9-20.

T. Asad (1995) "Two European Images of Non-European Rule," and S. Feuchtwang, "The Discipline and Its Sponsors," in T. Asad ed, *Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter*, Ithaca: Prometheus Books. pp. 71-100, 103-118.

E. Wolf, "Facing Power," in *Pathways of Power*, q.v., pp. 382-397.

F.G. Bailey (2001) *Stratagems and Spoils: A Social Anthropology of Politics*. Boulder, Co.: Westview Press. Selected chapters.

Cohn, Bernard S. 1996. *Colonialism and its Forms of Knowledge*. Oxford University Press, selected chapters.

### **2. Basic Concepts**

Akhil Gupta and Aradhana Sharma, eds. *The Anthropology of the State: A Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell. 2009, selected chapters

C.J. Fuller and Veronique Benei, eds. (2000) *The Everyday State and Society in Modern India*. New Delhi: Social Science Press, selected chapters

Lloyd I. Rudolph and John Kurt Jacobsen, eds. (2006) *Experiencing the State*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Michel Foucault (2009) *Security, Territory, Population: Lectures at the College de France 1977-78*. Picador.

Jonathan Xavier Inda (2005) *Anthropologies of Modernity: Foucault, Governmentality and Life Politics*. Wiley-Blackwell, selected chapters

James C. Scott (1998) *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

James C. Scott (2009) *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

James C. Scott (1987) *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Anand Chakravarti (1975) *Contradiction and Change: Emerging Patterns of Authority in a Rajasthan Village*, Delhi: Oxford University Press. Introduction.

Lila Abu-Lughod (1990) "The Romance of Resistance: Tracing Transformations of Power Through Bedouin Women," *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 41-55.

K. Sivaramakrishnan (2005) "Some Intellectual Genealogies for the Concept of Everyday Resistance," *American Anthropologist*, 107/3, pp. 346-355.

Clifford Geertz. 2004. "What is a State if it is not a Sovereign? Reflections on Politics in Complicated Places." *Current Anthropology* 45(5):577-593

### **3. Ethnographies of the State: Bureaucracy, Corruption, Populations**

R. Smith (1985) 'Rule-by-records and rule-by-reports: complementary aspects of the British imperial rule of law', *Contributions to Indian Sociology* (n.s.) 19.

Akhil Gupta (1995) "Blurred Boundaries: The Discourse of Corruption, the Culture of Politics, and the Imagined State" *American Ethnologist*. 22(2). Pp. 375-402.

Reproduced in Zoya Hasan, ed. (2000) *Politics and the State in India*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.

Emma Tarlo (2003) *Unsettling Memories: Narratives of the Emergency in Delhi*. Delhi: Permanent Black.

Partha Chatterjee (2004) *The Politics of the Governed: Reflections on Popular Politics in Most of the World*. (Chapters 2 and 3). Delhi: Permanent Black.

Jonathan Parry (1999) "Two Cheers for Reservation: The Satnamis and the Steel Plant" in Ramachandra Guha and Jonathan P. Parry, eds. *Institutions and Inequalities: Essays in Honour of Andre Beteille*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Clifford Geertz (1980) *Negara: The Theatre State in Nineteenth-Century Bali*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Veena Das and Deborah Poole, eds. (2004) *Anthropology in the Margins of the State*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Kriti Kapila, "Courts, Councils and Certificates: Registers of Legal Government in North India", Unpublished Paper.

#### **4. Development, Welfare and Violence**

Arturo Escobar (1994) *Encountering Development*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Upendra Baxi "Violence, dissent and development", Reprint from the Law and Social Change, ILL.

<http://www.upendrabaxi.net/documents/Violence,%20dissent%20and%20development.pdf>

Amita Baviskar (1995) *In the Belly of the River: Tribal Conflicts over Development in the Narmada Valley*.

Shiv Viswanathan (2000) "Supreme Court constructs a dam," *Economic and Political Weekly*, November 25.

Arjun Appadurai (2002) "Deep Democracy: Urban Governmentality and the Horizon of Politics," *Public Culture*, 14/1, pp. 21-47.

#### **5. Citizenship**

Anand Pandian (2009) *Crooked Stalks: Cultivating Virtue in South India*. Durham: Duke University Press.

James Holston (2008) *Insurgent Citizenship: Disjunctions of Democracy and Modernity in Brazil*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Adriana Petryna (2002) *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens after Chernobyl*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Renato Rosaldo, "Cultural Citizenship, Inequality, and Multiculturalism," in William V. Flores and Rina Benmayor, eds. *Latino Cultural Citizenship: Claiming Identity, Space, and Rights*, pp. 27-38.

Veena Das and Renu Adhalakha, Disability and domestic citizenship: Stigma, contagion and the making of the subject, *Public Culture* 13(3): 511-531, 2001

## **6. Democracy**

Julia Paley (2002) "Toward an Anthropology of Democracy," *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 31/1, pp. 469-496.

Walter Hauser and Wendy Singer (2001) "The Democratic Rite: Celebration and Participation in the Indian Elections" in Niraja Gopal Jayal, ed. *Democracy in India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Jonathan Spencer (2007) *Anthropology, Politics, and the State: Democracy and Violence in South Asia* (New Departures in Anthropology) Cambridge University Press. (Indian edition)

Craig Jeffrey (2010) *Timepass: Youth, Class, and the Politics of Waiting in India*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. (To be re-issued by OUP, Delhi)

Public Culture (2007) *Cultures of Democracy*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Peter Pels, Jean-Louis Briquet and Romain Bertrand, eds. (2008) *Cultures of Voting: The Hidden History of the Secret Ballot*. London: Hurst & Co.