COURSE NO.: SS 461N: POLITY AND SOCIETY IN INDIA

M.Phil. 1st Semester, Optional Course; Monsoon Semester: July-December; Credits: 4
Course Teacher: Dr. Tanweer Fazal; Course Tutors: Rabi Prakash & Arunoday Majumder
Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University

The course introduces key concepts and ideas within political sociology. The initial section familiarizes students with critical tools and theoretical debates necessary to analyse the dynamics of social structure and relations of power, their legitimation in different social/institutional contexts and the contestations. It presents various approaches and advances in social science that enrich our comprehension of the relationship between social identities and citizenship. In the subsequent sections, the course engages with the interface between state and society in contemporary India and the diverse forms of politics that this interaction has produced. The course will therefore examine in detail both the evolving structures and processes of the ‘political’ in India. It will also examine the electoral process as much as the non-electoral arena of collective action and mobilisation.

Evaluation: This is a 4 credit course. The students are required to write a Mid-semester test (1 credit), submit an original term paper of around 3000 to 3500 words (1 credit) and appear for the end-semester exam (2 credits). All three are necessary requirements. As per the JNU rules, the students who fail to do the first two, namely mid-semester and the written assignment, will not be eligible to write the end semester exam.

Note: Assignments have to be student's original work. Plagiarism in any form will not be accepted.

Course Outline

I. POLITY AND SOCIETY: THEORIES AND CONCEPTS

(A) Sociology of Power: Marx, Weber, Parsons and Foucault

(B) Power and Powerlessness; Legitimacy and Authority; Resistance and Revolution:
   Skocpol, Theda: State and Revolution: Old Regimes and Revolutionary Crises in France, Russia, and China, Theory and Society, Vol. 7, No. ½
II. STATE AND SOCIETY IN INDIA

(A) Political Economy of the Indian State: Colonial History; Developmental State; Neo-liberal turn:


(B) Everyday State, Governance and Politics:

Corbridge, Stuart et. al., Seeing the State: Governance and Governmentality in India (esp. Section 1: The State and the Poor), Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2005


Fuller, C.J & John Harriss, ‘For An Anthropology of the Modern Indian State’ in Fuller and Benei eds., Everyday state and Society in Modern India, Delhi: Social Science Press, 2000

(C) Tradition, Modernity and Democratic Politics: Structural Constrains and Social Churnings Caste, Ethnicity


Fazal, Tanweer, Nation-state and Minority Rights in India, London: Routledge, 2015 (esp. Chapter 2)

Baruah, Sanjib, Durable Disorder: Understanding the Politics of North-east, Delhi : OUP, 2016

III. POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION, PROTESTS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
Party system and electoral process:


(A) Agrarian mobilizations, working class politics, Dalit and Backward Class movements


(B) New Social Movements: women and environmental movements
Kumar, Radha, History of Doing, Delhi: Kali for women, 1993
Baviskar, Amita, *In the belly of the River*, Delhi: OUP, 2004 (rep)