Course 653
Theorizing Politics Beyond the Rational

Course Instructor: Dr. Mohinder Singh

Credits: 3

Contact Hours: 4 per week

Evaluation: 1 Term Paper and end-semester examination

Course Content

Political analysis has historically been dominated by rational and cognitive models of understanding politics emphasizing the role of speech and reason, manifesting themselves in phenomena such as, rational and social choice, play of interests, public deliberation and communicative action. In the process, other important elements affecting the political processes equally effectively have been marginalized in the dominant modes of political analysis. Without denying the obvious importance of the rational and cognitive models, this course is an attempt to introduce students to those categories of political analysis, which take political analysis beyond the rational. The course is centrally concerned with introducing students to the role of affects and emotion in politics.

1. The affective turn in humanities and social sciences
2. Affects and emotions: contentious perspectives
3. Emotions and passions in politics
4. Habits and the Body Politic: role of reforms and political education, civilization process, constructions of social and citizenship virtues.
5. The question of life: bio-political and bio-medical perspectives in Politics
6. Politics of the Virtual: The new media and the political
Readings:


Available at <http://www.generation-online.org/p/fpdeleuze3.htm.>


Available at <http://www.nadir.org/nadir/archiv/netzkritik/societyofcontrol.html>


