M.PHIL. OPTIONAL COURSE: PO 637
COURSE TITLE: DALIT MOVEMENTS IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA
INSTRUCTOR: PROFESSOR NARENDER KUMAR
Credits 4

**Scheme of Evaluation:** One Seminar paper and One Term Paper.

**Objectives:** This Course underlines the significance and emergence of Dalit consciousness and its implications for contemporary democratic politics. It seeks to understand the politics of the oppressed sections of society as expressed through a search for identity and through movements, which seek improvement in their socio-economic status, a share in political power and ultimately destruction of the unequal caste order.

The nature of these movements, their objectives and construction of Dalit identity is sought to be understood through existing frameworks in the first part. Part two analyses the debates on reform and representation of the Dalit and the factors underlying various anti-caste movements in the colonial period, which have consequence for the post-independence period. The third part takes up a few movements, and examines their emergence, ideology strategies of mobilisation. The similarities/differences among these movements and their implications for politics in various regions will be highlighted in the course. Finally two major aspects of the movement viz. Reservations in terms of policy outcome and Atrocities in terms of continuing social phenomenon will be highlighted and discussed to highlight the gaps prevalent in the larger goals of the movement.

I. Framework for the Study of Dalit Movements
   a) Social Movements - Liberal and Marxist frameworks.
   b) “New” Social Movements in the West and in India.
   c) Approaches to the study of dalit movements, overview of literature.
   d) Changing socioeconomic position of dalits, identity and ideology.

II Depressed Castes and Anti-caste Movements in the Colonial Period
   a) The socioeconomic conditions of the depressed castes.
   b) The Depressed classes and the colonial government.
   c) Gandhi and Ambedkar on social reform and representation for the depressed castes.
   d) Anti-caste movements in the colonial period.
II. Dalit Movements in Post Independence India

Emergence, Ideology and Strategies of Mobilization of Major Dalit Movements:

a) The Republican Party of India - UP and Maharashtra
b) The Dalit Panthers
c) The Bahujan Samaj party
d) The Dalit movement in Tamil Nadu
e) The Dalit Sangharsh Samiti in Karnataka

IV Issues and Problems Concerning Dalits

a) Reservations
b) Caste based Atrocities

Selected Readings:


Badri Narayan. The Making of Dalit Public in North India, OUP, 2011

B.R. AMBEDKAR COLLECTED WORKS, GOVT OF MAHARASHTRA.

Chinnaiah Jangam. Dalits and Making of the Modern India, OUP, 2017


H.Kotani (ed). Caste System Untouchability and the Depressed Manohar, New Delhi, 1997. (See essays on TN)


Kancha Illiah. “Productive Labour, Consciousness and History: A Dalit Bahujan Alternative” Subaltern Studies, Vol IX, OUP.


Narendra Kumar. Dalit and Shudra Politics and Anti-Brahmin Movement Economic and Political Weekly, November 4- 10, 2000


Rajni Kothari (ed.). Caste in Indian Politics, Orient Longman, Delhi, 1970.

Robert Deliege. The World of the Untouchable Paraiyars of TN OUP, 1997


S.K. Gupta. The SCs in Modern Indian Politics: Their Emergence as a Political Power, Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1985.


Sharmila Rege, Writing Caste/Writing Gender: Narrating Dalit Women’s Testimonies, Zuban, Delhi, 2007 Seminar 1998 (special issue on Dalit) no 471, November.


Sudha Pai. 2002 Dalit Assertion and the Unfinished Democratic Revolution: the BSP in Uttar Pradesh, Sage, New Delhi


Sukhadeo Thorat and Narender Kumar. BR Ambedkar: Perspectives on Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, OUP, New Delhi, 2008.


Oliver Mendelsohn and Marica Vicziany. The Untouchables: Subordination, Poverty and State in Modern India, CUP, New Delhi, 1998.


Note: The above-mentioned Course Content is intended for a regular one-semester course (four months). With the changes in the duration of the semester, corresponding modifications will be applied with reference to the topics, class lectures and readings.