

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Winter Semester

School:	Undergraduate Studies			
Programme with title:	BA History (Honours)			
Semester to which offered: (I/II/ III/IV/ V/VI)	Winter			
Course Title:	Contemporary India, 1947-92			
Credits:	4			
Course Code (new):	SUS1HS436			
Course Code (old):	H15			
Type of Course:	Compulsory	Yes	Cohort	BA (H) History
	Elective	Yes	Cohort	BA (H) other than History

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory) X
4. Discipline (Elective)
5. Elective X

Course Coordinator and Team: TBD

Email of course coordinator:

Pre-requisites: NONE

Aim: The course on Contemporary India aims to provide an overview of the major political and economic changes during the first five decades of independent India. It is essentially a story of the trajectory of India's social transformation after becoming an independent nation-state. The course examines the nature of India's social transformation and the enormous complexities involved in this process. Since this is a very vast area, the major themes have been chosen selectively (thought not randomly) and not exhaustively. For the sake of clarity, structures of power and economic processes are

treated as the matrix within which major changes will be shown to have taken place. The basic premise of the course is that independent India has been in the midst of a major social transformation, however messy and uneven. The course offers a discussion of some of the major ingredients in this process of social transformation. The Indian constitution as the blueprint of the transformation, making and the unmaking of the Indian nation, changes in the political structure, different stages of the economic development, different protest movements, and the rise in identity assertion are some of the major sub-themes that constitute the building blocks of India's social transformation.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

- I. **Consolidation and Integration I:** Legacy of two centuries of colonial rule; Integration of princely states; zaminadari abolition; major institutional and technological reforms in Indian agriculture (Ceiling, Cooperativization, Green Revolution).
- II. **Consolidation and Integration II:** Making of Indian Constitution; Redrawing the administrative boundaries; Polity under Nehru; The language question; DMK movement.
- III. **Economy:** From Command Economy to Liberalization.
- IV. **The Indian Nation:** General discussion of nation and nationalism; Strategies of nation-making by Nehru and his followers; major challenges faced by the Nation-in-Making – Kashmir, Punjab, North-East; the state of Indian nation today.
- V. **Democracy in India:** General discussion on Democracy; the nature of Indian democracy; mass participation; role of elections and political parties; major challenges confronted by Indian democracy – JP movement and the Emergency.
- VI. **Secularism in India:** General discussion on secularism – its meaning and definitions; nature of Indian secularism; major challenges faced by Indian secularism – Ramjanm Bhumi (Ayodhya) movement.
- VII. **The Caste Question:** General discussion on caste and casteism; Historical treatment of caste in India; Caste as identity assertion; major caste movements – rise of OBCs and Dalit assertion.
- VIII. **India and the World:** India's Foreign Policy; Non-Alignment under Nehru; Wars with China and Pakistan, 1962, 1965 and 1971.

Reading List:

1. Amit Bhaduri and Deepak Nayyar, *The Intelligent Person's Guide to Liberalization*.
2. Andre Betteille, *Society and Politics in India*
3. B.R.Nanda (ed.), *India's Foreign Policy*
4. Bimal Jalan (ed.), *The Indian Economy: Problems and Prospects*
5. Bipan Chandra et.al, *India After Independence*
6. Eleanore Zelliott, *From Untouchable to Dalit: Essays on the Ambedkar Movement*
7. Granville Austin, *The Indian Constitution: The Cornerstone of a Nation*
8. M.N.Srinivas (ed.), *Caste: Its Twentieth Century Avatar*
9. Myron Weiner, *The Indian Paradox: Essays in Indian Politics*
10. Partha Chatterjee (ed.), *Wages of Freedom: Fifty Years of the Indian Nation-State*

11. Paul R.Brass, *The Politics of India Since Independence*
12. Rajni Kothari, *Politics in India*
13. Ramchandra Guha, *India after Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy*
14. S.Gopal, *Jawaharlal Nehru, Volumes 2 and 3*
15. Shashi Tharoor, *India from Midnight to Millennium*
16. Sunil Khilnani, *The Idea of India*
17. Upendra Baxi and Bhikhu Parekh (ed.), *Crisis and Change in Contemporary India*
18. W.H.Morris-Jones, *The Government and Politics of India*
19. Yogendra Singh, *Social Change in India*
20. Yogendra Singh, *Social Stratification and Change in India*

Secondary Readings:

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Take home essay	After 2 nd third of the course	30%
2	Take home essay	After 2 nd third of the course	30%
3	Final Exam	End semester	40%
4			