

School of Human Studies
Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Time Slot-_____

Course Code:

Title: Politics, Resistance and Transformation

Type of Course: Core Course (MA Gender Studies/Psychology)

Cohort for which it is compulsory: (MA Gender Studies/Psychology)

Cohort for which it is elective: All other Majors

No of Credits: 4

Semester and Year Offered: 3rd Semester (Monsoon Semester 2017)

Course Coordinator and Team: Prof Anup Dhar, Dr Imran Amin (Course Coordinator), Deepti Sachdev

Email of course coordinator: imran@aud.ac.in

Pre-requisites:

Aim: The School of Human Studies wants its students to have a good sense of the political in terms of both its historical dimension and its conceptual-philosophical-perspectival foundations. In one sense, the School wants its students to be political in their thinking and in their relation to the world. In another sense, the School does not want them to be just political but to reflect on the political. And maybe through such reflection on the political (What the political is? What is the history of the political? Can we have other imaginations of the political? Can the non-western world contribute to the re-thinking of the political? Can we draw from spiritual and non-violent as also feminist, Dalit and ecological perspectives?) give shape to a political imagination that is tied to the psychological as also a psychological imagination tied to the political.

By placing political at the very heart of subjectivity and identity, this course effects an explanatory shift from psychic causality to structural formations. For us as constituents of a structure, how does power operate, and what are the possibilities for resistance and transformation of the social and the historical that open up or close off? In turning away from the 'individual' and the 'abstract-theoretical', the course focuses on exploring the discursive and the performative method of contesting oppression and injustice.. Marked by the philosophy of 'personal as political,' the course will also engage with 'everyday forms of protest' as a mode of isolated dissent.

The role of the state and civil society, the relation between global and local dimensions, and between private and public will be important themes. The course involves presentations, interaction with movement participants, film viewing, and exposure to various forms of protest such as dharnas or demonstrations.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Unit 1. What is politics? What is political? What can we learn from political theory?

Unit 2. Political as the Dream-ideal of Utopos.

Unit 3: Political as the Symptom of Tyrannical

Unit 4: Political as the Actualization of the Present

Unit 5: Power: Domination and Governmentality

Unit 6: Subjectivation: Resistance and Transformation

Assessment Details with weights:

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| 1. Term Paper 1 | 30% (end August) |
| 2. Term Paper 2 | 30% (mid October) |
| 3. Seminar Paper | 40% (end November/ early December) |

Reading List:

1. Carl Schmitt The Concept of the Political
2. Leo Strauss What Can We Learn from Political Theory
3. Hannah Arendt On Totalitarianism
4. Michel Foucault Society Must be Defended
5. Nikolas Rose Powers of Freedom
6. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi Hind Swaraj
7. AshisNandy Time Treks & Time Warps
8. Luce Irigaray The Way of Love & This Sex which is not One
9. Judith Butler ThePsychic Life of Power
10. Documentary: Corporations.
11. Film: HazaaronKhwaisheinAisi

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE:

1. Machiavelli The Prince
2. James Scott Weapons of the Weak
3. Michel Foucault History of Sexuality
4. Nikolas Rose Governing the Soul
5. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi The Story of my Experiments with the Truth
6. AshisNandy 'Final Encounter' from Debating Gandhi

7. Carol Pateman The Sexual Contract
8. Judith Butler Gender Trouble