

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Monsoon Semester (July-December 2018)

School: School of Development Studies

Programme with title: MA SDS

Semester to which offered: (I/ III/) Monsoon Semester

Course Title: Prejudice & Politics: Perception & Manifestation

Credits: 4Credits

Course Code (new):

Course Code (old):

Type of Course:

Elective yes

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

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

Course Coordinator and Team: Moggallan Bharti

Email of course coordinator: **moggallan@aud.ac.in**

Pre-requisites: A basic understanding in Social Sciences.

Aim:**Brief description of modules/ Main modules:**

Understanding the nature and the making of prejudice is very vital to our perception of the world we live in and the knowledge we develop and share. Studies done in the field of political psychology have explained in great detail on how the prejudicial behaviour shapes one's political choices and ideology. Prejudicial thinking, as scholars believe, is seen as a trenchant thought grounded in the backdrop of one's social behaviour which goes in to making sense of the world around him. Seen in this light, a prejudice is generally considered as corrosive on humans' actual understanding of issues and hence influences their capacity to think rationally. Politics fanning social prejudices are found to be of very serious in nature leading to pervasive social and political exclusion of the affected group. It is due to the inordinate influence of prejudice on our cognitive abilities, that the former must be grasped as political in nature and obviously then have an impact on the organization and evolution of politics.

In the contemporary world where Islamophobia, xenophobia, racial hatred, ethnic violence, misogyny, caste violence and discrimination are not only rampant but get further entrenched through political endorsement, studying the linkages between the formation of social prejudices and its relationship with politics is increasingly necessary. Much of the focus on this aspect of political and social discrimination has been at the heart of the work done by political psychologist and has broadly centred on racism and the racial discrimination. Needless to say, the formation of prejudices with its varying cultural specificities influences the political behaviour in society which is increasingly becoming global and breaking cultural silos. However, the formative process of prejudices is much layered. It is not very uncommon to see people holding fast to their views, even when they may not have experienced their own reasons which went in to the making of their prejudicial viewpoint in the first place. This very sense of an un-experiential belief system that fuels prejudice against a community is increasingly seen as legitimizing their respective political ideologies. Stereotypes against women, Muslims and ethnic minorities are some of the hard cases where people keep close to their prejudices despite it not informed through any real experience and which have more commonly come from their peers.

The purpose of this course is to look in to the social and psychological foundations of prejudices and its impact on the evolving politics. The course will make an attempt to locate the stereotypes, biases and prejudices using the available theoretical knowledge on the nature of human prejudice and would juxtapose it with both the modern and classic texts from the field of political theory that deals with the human agency in the formation of political society. Emphasis will be given on the process of racial othering, entrenched patriarchy, the concept of graded inequality embedded in the Hindu caste system, systemic post-colonial structures in the world and the issues arising from the coming together of multi ethnic and multicultural communities today. The course shall make an attempt in underlining the processes behind the racial prejudice and that of caste prejudice, along with that of gender, which have all but a common thread running and that is they all dehumanizes a community and gender.

At the end of the course, enrolled students will be able to understand the multidisciplinary scholarly literature on prejudice, particularly regarding the origins and forms of prejudice towards above mentioned groups and communities. They will have a firmer understanding of the contemporary knowledge about the empirical studies that focuses on the formation of various types of prejudice, the results of which they will be able to critically discuss. Students will also have an understanding of the role of the public institutions in transmitting norms related to prejudice and how it all in the end feed in to our political atmosphere. Finally, participants of the class will be familiar with the most effective methods of prejudice reduction and will have an understanding of the ethical and normative debates in the field of prejudice studies.

Main Modules

In this course an attempt will be made to have a theoretical understanding of prejudices that informs and consolidate its political manifestations and most importantly how the objective of politics could then be refashioned as primarily dispelling socially formed prejudices. Keeping in mind this core perspective the course will discuss four related modules in the course of semester. The modules are as following:

(I) Conceptualising Prejudice

- (II) Prejudices, Stereotypes and the formation of Identity
- (III) Prejudices and Discrimination: Race, Caste & Gender
- (IV) Politics as reducing Prejudice

Primary Readings:

Allport, G.W., 1979. *The nature of prejudice*. Basic books.

Ambedkar, B.R. and Rege, S., 2013. *Against the Madness of Manu: BR Ambedkar's Writings on Brahmanical Patriarchy* (p. 266). Navayana.

Anderson, Kristin J., 2010. *Benign bigotry: The psychology of subtle prejudice*. Cambridge University Press.

Arendt, H. and Kohn, J., 2005. *The Promise of Politics*. Schocken Books, New York.

Arendt, H., 2005. *Responsibility and judgment*. Random House Digital, Inc..

Baird, R.M. and Rosenbaum, S.E. eds., 1999. *Hatred, bigotry, and prejudice: Definitions, causes, and solutions*. Prometheus Books.

Bronner, S.E., 2014. *The Bigot: Why Prejudice Persists*. Yale University Press.

Brown, R., 2011. *Prejudice: Its social psychology*. John Wiley & Sons.

Crocker, J. and Major, B., 1989. Social stigma and self-esteem: The self-protective properties of stigma. *Psychological review*, 96(4), p.608.

Dovidio, J.F., Glick, P.E. and Rudman, L.A., 2005. *On the nature of prejudice: Fifty years after Allport*. Blackwell Publishing.

Dovidio, John F., Anja Eller, and Miles Hewstone., 2011. "Improving intergroup relations through direct, extended and other forms of indirect contact." *Group processes & intergroup relations* 14.2. p.147-160.

Guru, Gopal., 2011. "Humiliation: Claims and context." OUP.

Kymlicka, Will., 1995. *Multicultural citizenship: A liberal theory of minority rights*. Clarendon Press.

Kymlicka, Will., 2002. *Contemporary political philosophy: An introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Monroe, Kristen Renwick, and Maria Luisa Martinez-Martí., 2008. "Empathy, prejudice, and fostering tolerance." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 41.4, p.857-863.

Morning, Ann., 2011. *The nature of race: How scientists think and teach about human difference*. University of California Press.

- Nelson, T.D. ed., 2009. *Handbook of prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination*. Psychology Press.
- Nixon, Jon., 2015. *Hannah Arendt and the politics of friendship*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Pateman, C., 1989. *The disorder of women: Democracy, feminism, and political theory*. Stanford University Press.
- Perlmutter, P., 1999. *Legacy of hate: A short history of ethnic, religious, and racial prejudice in America*. ME Sharpe.
- Plous, S., 2003. The psychology of prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination: An overview. *Understanding prejudice and discrimination*, pp.3-48.
- Steele, C.M., 1997. A threat in the air: How stereotypes shape intellectual identity and performance. *American psychologist*, 52(6), p.613.
- Stroebe, W. and Insko, C.A., 1989. Stereotype, prejudice, and discrimination: Changing conceptions in theory and research. *Stereotyping and prejudice: Changing conceptions*, pp.3-34.
- Swim, J.K. and Stangor, C. eds., 1998. *Prejudice: The target's perspective*. Academic Press.
- Velásquez, Eduardo A., ed., 2003. *Love and friendship: Rethinking politics and affection in modern times*. Lexington Books.
- Whitley, B. and Kite, M., 2009. *The psychology of prejudice and discrimination*. Cengage Learning

Further Readings

- Arendt, H., 2013. *The human condition*. University of Chicago Press.
- Arendt, Hannah. *Eichmann in jerusalem*. Penguin, 1963.
- Arendt, Hannah. *On violence*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1970.
- Borooah, V.K., Sabharwal, N.S., Diwakar, D.G., Mishra, V.K. and Naik, A.K., 2015. *Caste, Discrimination, and Exclusion in Modern India*. SAGE Publications India.
- Chibber, V., 2014. *Postcolonial theory and the specter of capital*. Verso Books.
- Harari, Yuval Noah, 2014. *Sapiens. A Brief History of Humankind*. London: Vintage Books.
- Kaplan, Danny. "The Nation and the Promise of Friendship: Building Solidarity through Sociability." (2018).

Ramnarayan Rawat. 2011. *Reconsidering untouchability: Chamars and dalit history in North India*. Bloomington Indiana University Press. [An excellent political history of Dalits in northern India.

Wolf, N., 2013. *The beauty myth: How images of beauty are used against women*. Random House.

Zinn, H., 1990. *The politics of history: with a new introduction*. University of Illinois Press.

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Assignment		30%
2	Presentation of a theme form the course		30%
3	Research Paper		40%