Syllabus for PS 138-11: Political Economy of India
Tufts University, Spring Term 2012
Tuesday and Thursdays, 6:00-7:15 p.m.
Barnum Hall 114

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:30 pm, and by appointment

Syllabus draft: 01/18/12

Course Description:
This course provides an introduction to the political economy of India. It examines the interplay of politics and economics in this large sub-continental country from the village level to the international level. It begins by discussing India’s economy during the colonial period, looks at the challenges it has faced since independence, and then focuses on the transformations that have occurred since liberalization in the 1990s. Some of the key themes to be explored are globalization, economic reform, poverty, redistribution, federalism, political protest, public goods delivery, gender, and ethnic politics. Although this class focuses specifically on India, a number of the themes discussed in this course are central to an analysis of developing countries in general.

Course Texts:
There is one required text which is available for purchase at the Tufts bookstore:


All other course readings will be made available through Trunk. Many readings are also available on JSTOR or online. If you have difficulties accessing a text please let me know as soon as possible.

Course Requirements:
Your final grade will be based on the following components:

- Class attendance/participation (5 percent total)
- Student presentation and bibliography (10 percent total)
- Two geography quizzes (5 percent each; 10 percent total)
- Exam 1 (20 percent total)
- Exam 2 (20 percent total)
- Response papers (five required; 3 percent each; 15 percent total)
- Research Paper (20 percent)
Information about the Geography Quizzes:
It is essential that you know the names and location of India’s federal states, union territories, large cities, and major bodies of water. The study materials for the quizzes will be provided on Trunk.

Information about the Student Presentations:
Starting in the second half of the term, students working in teams of two (or three) will make a ten-minute presentation to the class. The topic for the presentation is up to you and your partner/s, but it must relate to the political economy of India and the topic must be checked with me beforehand. Prior to your presentation, you are required to submit a bibliography of sources that were consulted.

Information about the Response Papers:
You are required to submit five response papers over the term. You can choose when to write the response papers, however two papers must be submitted by 5:00 pm on March 5, 2012 and three papers must be submitted after that date. I will only accept one response paper in any given week so you will need to plan ahead a bit. Each response paper needs to be typed and 1-2 pages long (single-spaced). I will provide some general guidelines for how to write the response papers in class as well as how they will be graded. Each response paper is worth 3 percent of your final grade. Response papers must address the readings for a particular day of class, and must be sent to me via email by 5 p.m. on the day before class meets. Late response papers will not be accepted.

Information about the Exams:
There will be two in-class exams that will consist of short identification questions and essays.

Information about the Research Paper:
A major requirement for this course is a 13-15 page (double-spaced) research paper on a topic that pertains to the political economy of India. All topics must be developed in consultation with me and I encourage you to come to my office hours to discuss your ideas. The topic for your paper cannot be the same as the one used for your presentation. A 1-2 page (double-spaced) proposal outlining your paper is due in class on March 1. Late proposals will result in the research paper being graded down a full letter grade. The proposal should do the following: (1) explain what your research question is; (2) explain your working hypothesis/hypotheses; (3) briefly describe how you will empirically assess your hypothesis. I will then provide feedback on your proposal.

Expectations and Other Notes:
Attendance is mandatory and readings should be completed by the class for which they are assigned. Be sure to always bring your readings as we will refer to them during class.

For any short questions, brief requests, etc., please contact me via email and I will try to respond within 24 hours. For questions about the readings, discussion about research paper topics, etc., I encourage you to visit me during my office hours which are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in Packard Hall room 306. If your schedule conflicts with these times, I am happy to schedule an appointment with you.
If you are requesting an accommodation, as a result of a documented disability, you must register with the Disability Services Office at the beginning of the semester. To do so, call the Student Services Desk at 617-627-2000 to arrange an appointment with Sandra Baer, Program Director of Disability Services.

Please familiarize yourself with the university's handbook on Academic Integrity: [http://uss.tufts.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/Academic%20Integrity.pdf](http://uss.tufts.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/Academic%20Integrity.pdf)

Nearly everyone experiences some degree of anxiety when speaking in public. However, it is an important skill to cultivate while you are in college because it is needed for most jobs. If you are at all concerned about your ability to present to the class, please talk to me so that we can discuss some strategies.

**Important Dates:**
- January 31 – geography quiz 1 in class
- February 9 – geography quiz 2 in class
- February 16 – selection of presentation partners in class
- March 1 – research paper proposal due in class
- March 5, 5:00 pm – two response papers must be submitted via email before this date
- March 8 – exam 1
- April 19 – exam 2
- May 11, 5:00 pm – research paper due
- TBD – student presentations

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**Thursday, January 19: Introduction**

**Tuesday, January 24: Key Concepts in Political Economy; Colonial India**

**Thursday, January 26: Colonial India**

**Tuesday, January 31: Independence and Institutional Legacies**

*Geography Quiz 1*

**Thursday, February 2: India’s Democracy**

**Tuesday, February 7: The Post-Independence Political Economy**

**Thursday, February 9: The Green Revolution**
*Geography Quiz 2*


**Tuesday, February 14: Political Economy on the Eve of Liberalization**

**Thursday, February 16: Political Economy on the Eve of Liberalization**
*Selection of presentation partners in class*


**Tuesday, February 21: Causes and Consequences of Liberalization**

**Tuesday, February 28: The Politics of Liberalization**

**Thursday, March 1: India’s Federal System**
*Research Paper Proposal due*


**Tuesday, March 6: India’s Federal System**
Thursday, March 8:
   * Exam 1 *

Tuesday, March 13: The Private Sector

Thursday, March 15: Unions

Tuesday, March 27: Labor and Class Politics

Thursday, March 29: Democracy and Class Politics

Tuesday, April 3: Inequality

Thursday, April 5: Gender

Tuesday, April 10: Ethnic Conflict

Thursday, April 12: Ethnic Politics

Tuesday, April 17: Natural Resources and Local Governance

**Thursday, April 19:**
*Exam 2*

**Tuesday, April 24: Global India**

**Thursday, April 26: Innovative Sectors**

* The research paper is due Friday, May 11 at 5:00 pm. You must submit both a hard copy and send it to me as an email attachment.