



POLI 376 Politics of India

Instructor Fall 2021: Dr. Reeta Tremblay

Course delivery: In the Fall 2021 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:

India, the world's largest democracy, is facing one of its biggest challenges – maintaining its commitment to a multicultural society. With the phenomenal electoral success of Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), we are witnessing a rapid dismantling of the multicultural political identity of the state in favor of ethnic majoritarianism. This course seeks to explore the working of the Indian democracy and attempts to explain the numerous paradoxes and challenges underpinning Indian politics and society. We begin with a brief description of the current Hindutva shift in the Indian politics. We then contextualize this shift within the framework of the post-independent Indian constitution which created political and cultural institutions designed to accommodate Indian diversity.

Prerequisite: POLI 217, or permission of the instructor

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Explore India's constitution and the competing nationalisms
- Understand India's diverse social structure, the foundations of modern India and the impact of colonialism
- Examine Gandhi's role in the national movement including the roots of his charisma and successful mobilization of the masses against British rule
- Understand the challenges facing India today including the ongoing official and unofficial wars

Topics may include:

Ethnic majoritarianism
Impact of colonialism
Democratic Constitution
Political insurgencies
Dalits and tribal communities
Gender and transgender violence

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.