India, the world’s largest democracy, is facing one of its worst challenges—maintaining its commitment to a multicultural society. With the phenomenal electoral success of Narendra Modi’s Bhartiya Janta 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. The course begins with a brief description of the current Hindutva shift in the Indian politics. It then contextualizes this shift within the framework of the post-independent Indian constitution which created political and cultural institutions designed to accommodate Indian diversity. In doing so, the course will briefly explore India’s diverse social structure; the foundations of modern India; the impact of colonialism; the making of the Indian post-Independence state—its continuities and discontinuities with the colonial past; Gandhi’s role in the national movement—the traditional roots of his charisma and the successful mobilization of the masses against the British rule; the Saffronization of Indian politics linked with the rise of Hindu nationalism and neo-liberalism; and the ongoing official and unofficial civil wars.

**Required Texts:**

All required readings are posted in Course Spaces.

I have also posted some lectures by eminent Indian scholars (youtube) plus some documentaries. I recommend you watch these to give you an excellent background to the complex Indian political reality—both historical and contemporary.

**Course Spaces**

Course Spaces is an online learning resource provided by the University of Victoria. The POLI 376 page provides important course material such as the syllabus and information on the various course assignments. The additional materials for the course is posted to the POLI 376 page.

**Evaluation Criteria**

This course emphasizes critical analysis and open discussion of the weekly readings, as well as the development of your research and writing skills. Final grades are broken down accordingly:

**Midterm Exam:** Thursday February 6 25 %
Essay: Thursday March 23 30 %
Final Exam: (Date to be determined) 40 %
Participation Throughout 05%

Attendance, Assignments, and Grading:
The UVic Academic Calendar states: “Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled.” Attendance will be taken, and any student who attends fewer than 70 percent of scheduled class sessions will be assigned a grade of “N” for the course. Students must complete all assignments (see Course Requirements) in order to get credit for the course.

The Learning Environment:
The UVic Academic Calendar notes: “The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and productive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right to experience and the responsibility to help create such an environment.” Students and community partners have diverse views on the issues discussed in this course, and we seek to create an environment in which all perspectives – including those of the instructors – can be analyzed critically in a respectful fashion.

Grading Policies and Academic Integrity:
Students must complete all assignments in order to get credit for the course. Numerical grades will be converted to letter grades as follows:

90-100% = A+ 70-72%= B-
85-89% = A 65-69%= C+
80-84%= A- 60-64%= C
77-79%= B+ 50-59%= D
73-76%= B Below 50%= F

Complete overview of University of Victoria’s undergraduate grading system:
http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2013/FACS/UnIn/UARE/Grad.html

As per University of Victoria policy, you must complete all assignments. Failure to do so will result in a grade of ‘N’ (incomplete) for the course.

Midterm Exam
The midterm exam will take place during class on Thursday February 9. It is a written exam and will last for 70 minutes. The midterm will cover both reading and lecture material from the preceding weeks,
and will consist of short essay questions in which you will write about key concepts and specific federal cases.

**Essay: Instructions**

✓ **Themes for the essay: Select one of the options:**

**Option 1:** Democracy and ethnic Majoritarianism; Religion and Politics; Unofficial and Official civil wars; Secessionist movements; Tribal Insurgency; Security vs Liberty; Multiculturalism; Citizenship; Indian constitution making and competing nationalisms – Gandhi, Nehru, Ambedkar and Savarkar; Party System; Asymmetric Federalism; Federalism and the Accommodation of Ethnic Nationalism; Cultural Politics; Gender Equality; Gender and Transgender Violence; Dalits and the tribal communities of India (Note: If you want to explore another topic, please seek my permission.)

**Option 2:** select four books on India on a particular theme and do a book review essay. You need to seek my permission. Send me an e-mail for the books you and selected and why you have done so.

✓ A minimum of 15 pages and a maximum of 20 pages – double spaced.

✓ A bibliography of 15 to 20 academic sources (no newspaper or magazine articles, no blogs). Please stick to refereed journal articles and books. The best way to find good sources, go to the database search engine (UVic library website) and use Google Scholar and JSTOR. If a book is not available at UVic, you can request from the library through interlibrary loan process.

*The research essay will allow you to engage critically with some of the theoretical debates and/or empirical cases we have explored in the course readings and lectures. Essays must follow proper academic style, formatting and referencing guidelines. It does not matter which citation style you use, make sure that it is consistent.*

**How to develop your essay (its different components):**

See below a general roadmap for dividing up your essay

✓ Identify your topic – give a background. Explain why you find this topic interesting – such as the timeliness of your idea/topic.

✓ What is your research question? For example, what will you will be focusing on? Make sure your research problem is not too broad – narrow it down and make it manageable. Think about your major unit of analysis; and consider the cause and effect (relationship between variables), the time period etc. Regarding your research question, you want to keep in mind that you must establish, prove or disprove the solutions to the question posed- in other words, you cannot describe a topic without a research question.

✓ Identify your main points/arguments. Here the most important point to keep in mind is that you need to rely on academic sources to build your main argument or sub-arguments. Your opinions do not count if these are not substantiated with academic debates/sources. I am looking for an
academic writing. Footnote/cite your sources for an idea. Do not present someone else’s idea as that of your own. In short, I am looking for an evidenced based argument/sub-arguments.

✓ Summarize your major findings and the results you found as a result of your analysis
✓ The conclusion should include a brief interpretation of your study and the conclusions you have derived in relation to your research question.

Pay attention to your grammar, sentence structure and make paragraphs. Stay focused on the research problem you are investigating.

Use paragraphs to separate each important point.

Present your points in a logical order. Create a liking sentence to connect your paragraph.

You can choose any style of citation but make sure it is consistent.

Please submit your essay before the deadline of 4:30 PM on Thursday March 23. It can be dropped in my dropbox at the Dept. of Political Science main office. I will grant deadline extensions only in the event of an illness, an emergency, or on compassionate. Late papers will be penalized 3% a day (including weekends). No electronic submission, hardcopy please!

Examples of book review essay:

Kashmir conflict: Secessionist movement, mobilization and political institutions  RC Tremblay - 2001 - JSTOR


Final Exam

The final exam will take place during the First Term examination period (date of exam to be determined by the University of Victoria). It is a written exam and will last for two hours. The exam will consist of essay questions in which you will write about key themes relating to Indian politics. The final exam will be cumulative and will cover both readings and lecture material from the entire course.
Class Participation

Active attendance and participation in broader class discussion are important aspects of this course. See above: Attendance, Assignments, and Grading. I strongly encourage you to come to class prepared to discuss the readings as well as with questions and/or observations regarding the course material and the cases that we are examining.

Classroom Etiquette and Collegiality

I expect appropriate and respectful behaviour from everyone in the course. You are in this class to learn and that requires your full and undivided attention. Accordingly, please arrive to class on time. Laptops are only permitted in class for taking notes. Further, texting is not permitted and cell phones must be turned off during class time. Students must also be respectful to each other and to each other’s contributions to class discussion.

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations http://rcsd.uvic.ca/. The sooner you let them know your needs the quicker they can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that you submit individually or as a member of a group. It involves commitment to the values of honesty, trust and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.

The responsibility of the institution - Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

The responsibility of the student - Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor. Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student’s transcript, or a suspension. It is your responsibility to understand the University’s policy on academic integrity, which can be found on pages 32-34 of the undergraduate calendar.

http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2013/FACS/UnIn/UARE/PoAcl.html

Useful information from the University on plagiarism and tips on how to avoid it:

http://library.uvic.ca/instruction/cite/documents/avoiding_plagiarism.pdf

Course Experience Survey (CES)
I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

Course Schedule and Readings

1. General Introductions, discussion of syllabus, course requirements and expectations.
   ✓ Why study India? Why India matters?
   ✓ Empire, colonization and knowledge/power; Partition and Displacement
   ✓ Democracy (parliamentary democracy, successful national elections; multi-party system); Rising Economic Power; Populism; Geopolitics and India (China and its BLR initiative)

2. The 2014 Parliamentary elections; the overwhelming electoral mandate of the BJP (2014 and 2019); Modi - the populist leader - the image and leadership; the rise of Majoritaianism; From beef politics and love jihad in 2014 to the implementation of the Hindutva cutbacks agenda in 2019- Kashmir, Ayodhya (temple-Mosque) and a uniform civil code; National Citizenship exercise - Dissent crushed, control of media and Democracy in danger

- Reeta Chowdhari Tremblay and Michelle Bonner “In India, Modi’s nationalism quashes dissent with help from the media” October 29, 2019. The Conversation.
- Ronojoy Sen, “Narendra Modi’s makeover and the politics of symbolism”, Journal of Asian Public Policy, 05/2016, Volume 9, Issue 2
3. A brief introduction of the 1950 Indian constitution – (Procedural and Substantive Democracy); Federalism; Fundamental Rights; Directive Principles; Secularism

- Oberst etc. Government and Politics in South Asia Ch. 2 (State Institutions and Changing Political Dynamics); Ch. 4 (Shifting Perspectives about Political Parties and Political Leaders), pp 43-70; 84-114

4. Exploring India’s diverse social structure – religious traditions


5. The foundations of modern India; the impact of colonialism; the making of the Indian post-Independence state – its continuities and discontinuities with the colonial past.


6. The Nationalist Movement- Gandhi, Ambedkar; the counter movements- the Hindutva and the Muslim League
7. **Hindutva and National Identity: the Saffronization of Indian politics linked with the rise of Hindu nationalism; Muslims versus Hindu India – Shah Bano Case - A Uniform Civil Code; ; Ram Mandir,**

- Hindutva and Homogenization of social and cultural institutions

8. **Hindutva and Homogenization of social and cultural institutions**

9. Economic Policies – from a command Economy to neo-liberalism; the Informal Se Identity-based politics and secessionist movements


10. Secessionist Movements and Political Insurgencies


Note: No Lecture on Monday February 3.