

SYLLABUS
SIKKIM MANIPAL UNIVERSITY
PHD ENTRANCE
POLITICAL SCIENCE

UNIT I - STATE AND POLITICS IN SOUTH ASIA

Contextualizing South Asia

Colonial History, National Movements, Independence and Partition, Culture & Society, Geo-Politics.

Political and Economic Challenges

Failing States: Pakistan and Afghanistan, Terror as Tactics: Sri Lanka and Nepal, Civil Military Relations: Bangladesh, Political Economy of the Region, Civil Society.

Protracted Disputes, Human Security and Environmental Issues

Partition and the War for Kashmir, The Sri Lankan Civil War, Nuclear issue, Terrorism, Insurgency, Human Rights, Gender Discrimination, Environment and Development Issues, Migration.

Foreign Policies of South Asian Countries and Regional Cooperation Initiatives

Foreign Policies of India and Pakistan towards their South Asian Counterparts, Regional Cooperation (Problems and Prospects): SAARC, SAFTA, SAPTA.

UNIT II - GOVERNANCE AND POLITICS IN INDIA

Approaches and Perspectives to Indian Political System

Legal, Historical, Cultural, Political Economy; Rights and Accountability: Rule of Law, Civil and Political Rights, Corruption and Accountability, Institutional Mechanisms.

Protection for Minorities and Deprived Groups

Role of Commissions, Special Officer on Linguistic Minorities, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, National Human Rights Commission, Minorities Commission, National Commission for Women. Issues related to ethnic minorities. Politics of Identity. Judicial Review and Judicial Activism in India.

Party System in India

Single Party to Dominant and Multi-Party System, Regional and State Parties, Coalition Politics; Party Alliances and Government Formation, Federalism, Regionalism and Political Parties. Elections in India: Determinants of Voting Behaviour: Caste, Community, Class, Gender and Region. Electoral Reforms. Problems relating to formation of States; Debates on Article 370 and 371; Problems of Union State relations - Recommendations of the Rajamannar Commission and the Sarkaria Commission; Challenges of diversity, development and separatism.

Structural Concerns

Organised and unorganised sectors-labour issues, agrarian crisis and farmers suicide, Terms of Trade between Industry and Agriculture, policy of Special Economic Zones (SEZ), right to work and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Right to Information (RTI).

UNIT III- INDIA AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Political Economy

Political Economy as a Method and Approach, Evolution and Approaches to International Political Economy: Traditional Approaches; Marxian, neo-Marxian, Dependencies. Discourse on Globalisation in International Political Economy.

Comparative economic systems; Economic growth; Development; Backwardness; Reform.

International and Multilateral Economic Institutions

WB, IMF, GATT to World Trade Organisation (WTO). Political Economy of Regionalism: European Union, Asia Pacific Economic Community (APEC), ASEAN, SAARC.

Land Reforms in India

New Agricultural Strategy, Farmers Movements, Rural Indebtedness & landlessness, impact of New Economic policy. Economic Reforms, Public Sector, New Industrial policy, Corporate Sector, Impact on Labour. Transnational Corporations (TNCs) Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Protest Movements.

Public Policy Analysis

Approaches and Methods; Models: Institutional, Process, Rational Model, Elite Model, Group Model. Public Policy and analysis in Indian context. Energy Policy of India.

UNIT IV - DECENTRALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA**Conceptualizing and Measuring Decentralisation**

Concept of Decentralisation; Theoretical Foundations of Decentralisation (Classical liberal, Development and Neo-liberal theories); Advantages and Disadvantages; Major Dimensions of Decentralisation and their links, Decentralisation and Centralization, Decentralisation in Developing Countries.

Decentralisation, Governance and the Structure of Local Political Institutions

Politics of Decentralisation: Evolution, Goals, Dimensions and Challenges; Decentralisation and Citizen Participation: Instruments, Mechanisms and Spaces; Democratic Accountability in Local Governance Institutions (Local election, Transparency & RTI, Media and Civil Society).

Decentralisation and Community Empowerment

Decentralized Governance and Right-based Approach; Social and Economic Rights of vulnerable groups in decentralized system of governance; Gender Equity and Women's Participation.

Participation and Local Development

People's Participation in (rural) Development; Role of local governments in Service Delivery and Poverty Reduction, Decentralized Planning and District Planning Committee.

SELECT READINGS:

- Dubey, Muchkund (ed), South Asian Growth Quadrangle: Framework for Multifaceted Cooperation, (Delhi: Macmillan, 1999).
- Farmer B.H. An Introduction to South Asia 2nd edition, (Routledge, 1996).
- Fuller C.J. The Camphor Flame: Popular Hinduism and Society in India, (Princeton: 1992).
- Jha, S.N. and P.C. Mathur (eds.), Decentralisation and Local Politics, (New Delhi: Sage, 1999).
- Arora, Balveer and Verney, Douglas (eds.), Multiple Identities in a Single State: Indian Federalism in Comparative Perspective, (Delhi: Konark, 1995).
- Austin, Granville, Working of a Democratic Constitution, (New Delhi: Oxford, 2000).
- Austin, Granville, The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation, (Oxford, 1999).
- Kothari, Rajni, Politics in India, (New Delhi: Orient Longman, 1971).
- Brass, Paul R., The Politics of India Since Independence, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992).
- Byres, Terence, J., (ed), The State and Development Planning in India, (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1994).
- Chatterjee, Partha, A Possible India: Essays in Political Criticism, (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1997).
- Aziz, Abdul and David D. Arnold (eds), Decentralized Governance in Asian Countries, (New Delhi: Sage, 1996)
- Crook, R.C. and J. Manor, Democracy and Decentralisation in South Asia and West Africa: Participation, Accountability and Performance, (Cambridge University Press, 1998)
- Fung, A. and Wright, E. (eds) Deepening Democracy, Institutional Innovations in Empowered Participatory Governance. (London: Verso, 2003)