



Contemporary India

SOCJ 365: *Social Justice*

Course Description

India is such a heterogeneous society with so many cultures and sub-cultures, social and religious differences that it is difficult to understand the dynamics of all these which get reflected in politics, social policies and legislations. This course is conceived and structured to enable the students to identify, comprehend, and de-construct these complexities and understand the internal dynamics of all these differences.

The course is divided into four modules that cover theories and practices of social justice. This will enable the students to understand the realities of caste, class, gender, religion and ethnicity. The first module surveys the contemporary theories of social justice, notions of fairness and issues of distributive justice. The second will address the social reality of caste, the revolutionary thinkers and practitioners. It also takes a look at the current challenges that the *dalit* movement faces. The third covers gender and the different approaches to gender justice. It will also examine critically the social movements for gender justice in India. The fourth will bring in the Human Rights discourse and cover issues of the marginalized groups like *adivasis*, minorities and others.

Learning Objectives

1. To introduce the concept and practice of social justice in India as is reflected in the constitutional provisions and developed through people's movements for social justice.
2. To critically examine the issues and practice of social justice in the context of specific groups like women, castes like *dalits* and OBCs, minorities like *adivasis* and religious minorities
3. To locate issues and challenges to the practice of social justice in the present social, political and economic context

Course Schedule

Module I Concepts and Approaches to Social Justice

Session 01/21 Introduction to the course

Session 02/21 Concepts and notions of social justice

Session 03/21 Social justice in the Indian context: Critique from quarantined India

Readings:

Guru G. (2007). "Twentieth Century Discourse on Social Justice: A View from Quarantined India." *Depth of Modern Indian Thought and Social Sciences*.
Bhattacharya Ed. New Delhi: OUP. Pgs.221-238.

**Session 04 /21 Colonial India and the many contesting voices for social justice:
Nationalists, women, minorities, non-Brahmin & the untouchables**

Readings:

Bandopadhaya, Shekhar. (2004). "Many voices of a nation." *From Plassey to Partition – A History of Modern India*. Orient Longman. Pgs.334-404.

Session 05/21 Constitutional Provisions: Directive principles, Fundamental Rights

Readings:

Granville, Austin. The making of the Indian Constitution. Pgs. 63-144

Module II Caste Ideology and Practices

Field Visit to Phule wada

Session 06/21 Mahatma Jotiba Phule

The first social revolutionary in the colonial period: Social justice movement - the anti-Shetji / Bhatji movement.

Readings:

Deshpande, G.P. (2002). "Of Hope and Melancholy: Reading Jotirao Phule in our times." *Selected Writings of Jotirao Phule* Left Word. Pgs 1-21.

Session 07/21

Presentations by students on the small survey on Fundamental Rights. Each student must interview 5-10 people from the community (outside of the Alliance) to find out what they know about their rights as citizens. (15% of final grade)

Session 08/21 Theory of Liberation of the Dalits - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar & Periyar

Readings:

Omvedt, Gail. (1994). "Ambedkarism: Theory of Liberation." *Dalits and the Democratic Revolution*. Sage. Pgs. 224- 259.

Session 09/21 Guest lecture

Prof. Anjali Maydeo Ambedkar on the current challenges before the Dalit movement

Session 10/21 Mahatma Gandhi - Untouchability and Social Justice

Readings:

Markovits, Claude. (2003). *The Un-gandhian Gandhi: The Life and Afterlife of the Mahatma*. Anthem Press: New Delhi

Session 11/21 Film “Indian Untouched” by Drishti followed by discussion.

Session 12/21 Dialogue with local college students on their perceptions and experiences on gender and caste

Module III Gender Justice: An introduction to the ideologies & practices in India

Session 13/21 Notions of Gender Justice in Modern India

Readings:

Kapoor, Ratna. (2007). “Challenging the Liberal Subject: Law & Gender Justice in South Asia.” *Gender Justice, Citizenship & Development*. Maitrayee M. & Navsharan Singh, Zubaan, Eds. New Delhi. pgs. 117- 170.

Session 14/21 Caste and Gender - Questioning Indian patriarchy, caste and religion

Readings:

Chakravarty, Uma. *Gendering Caste through a Feminist Lens*. Stree Publications, Mumbai & Kolkata. Pgs. 1-36 (Prologue – Chapter 2).

Field visit to Aalochana Centre for Documentation and Research on Women

Session 15/21

Debate in class on “Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi’s concept of Non-Violence in today’s world”. Two positions for and against would have to be defended by the students forming two teams.

Session 16/21 Affirmative Action and Social Justice: policies and enactments (i.e. 73rd and 74th amendments) to achieve this. Film followed by discussion

Readings:

(2002). "New Modes of Violence: The backlash against women in the Panchayat System." *The Violence of Development*. Karin Kapadia, Ed. Kali for Women: New Delhi. Pgs. 393-424

Module IV Current Debates on Social Justice

Session 17/21 Religious Minorities: Sacchar committee report highlights, issues of communal violence

Readings:

Sacchar Committee Report pgs. 9-26 and 238-254

Session 18/21 Adivasis and Marginalized Groups: Exploitation in the neo-liberal context

Readings:

Xaxa, Virginius. "Tribes in India." *The Oxford India Companion to Sociology & Social Anthropology*. pgs. 374-408.

Session 19/21

Students will make presentations on current topics of Social Justice reported in the local newspapers in the classrooms followed by discussion. This exercise will carry 30 % of the final grade and is compulsory. Presentations can be made with the use of posters/ power point presentations.

Session 20/21 Human Rights in India and debates - Guest lecture by activist for rights of LGBT groups.

Session 21/21 Challenges to the Notions of Social Justice: Emerging new frontiers

Readings:

Nussbaum, Martha. (2001). *Frontiers of Justice*. Oxford University Press: New Delhi. Pgs. 1-8 & 96-154.

Course Textbook

Readings will be given in the course reader.

Evaluation

Attendance & Class Participation	10%
Classroom activities (Debate and Survey)	30%
Classroom Presentation	30%

Rev. 11.23.2015

Assessment Criteria

Final Assignment

This is the final paper that the students are expected to write. This should be a well researched paper on any topic that has been covered in the semester, through the readings or emerging from class discussions. The paper must be based on additional readings at least three and all references, works cited must be provided. The paper should be 10- 15 pages, single spaced. Hard copy of the written assignment must be submitted by the 23rd of October. Non-compliance can affect grades. Proper references must be given for both print and internet.

Grading: Alliance programs utilize the follow standard grading policy well accepted by most US institutions.

Excellent	A	93-100%	Good	B+	87-89%	Acceptable	C+	77-79%
	A-	90-92%		B	83-86%		C	73-76%
				B-	80-82%		C-	70-72%
						Unsatisfactory	D+	67-69%
							D	63-66%
							D-	60-62%
						Failing	F	<60%

Course Policies

Exams and Assignments

Students are required to take all regularly scheduled exams in courses for which they are registered, and to submit all assignments on time. Any compelling academic, personal, or medical reason that might justify a rescheduled exam or assignment must be brought up to the Resident Director, not program faculty. Failure to take scheduled exams or submit the requisite assignments for a course will adversely affect your grade as per the stated grading criteria for each course.

Classroom Conduct

Student punctuality is extremely important in China and India. Please do not be late for classes or other activities, as it is considered impolite to do so. It is improper to eat in class, to engage in other activities such as texting, or to slump or nap. Students are expected to be alert and engaged as a sign of respect for their professors.

Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. It is essential that the students participate fully in the coursework and all required academic activities. Authorized absences may only be approved by the Resident Director, and students are expected to make up any missed work. Unauthorized absences will adversely affect a student's grades.