



**PSED 390 Political Economy and Development**  
**The Alliance for Global Education Contemporary India:**  
**Development, Environment, Public Health Program, Spring 2010**

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**Course Description**

This course focuses on the key themes relating to economic and political development. It examines the way actors shape the distribution of power and wealth in the Indian polity and economy. It seeks to understand the obstacles and opportunities currently facing India. The main questions addressed by the course are: How do we define development and who is development for? What are the political and economic factors shaping development? How does the struggle for power and wealth affect issues of poverty, equality, and justice? The course will emphasize political economy of development in the Indian context, but the debates and discussions will also deal with issues affecting developing countries overall.

**Course Requirements**

Students are required to attend the class, complete the readings and actively participate in class discussions. This course will focus on linking up theoretical aspects with the reality on the ground. In order to enable this, students would be encouraged to utilize the experiences gained from their internship as a base for their assignments in this course. (Please note: the internship will be graded separately from this course. Students may take up any topic for their internship, and we would try to draw out the aspects of the fieldwork that would relate to this course). The grading for the course will be as follows:

Classroom attendance	<b>10%</b>
Participation in classroom discussions	<b>20%</b>
Written assignment	<b>35%</b>
Presentation	<b>35%</b>

**Readings**

This list indicates some of the main texts that will be used in the course. Specific readings (including page numbers from these texts) for each topic will be assigned. In addition, journal articles and current affairs editorials from newspapers would be assigned for each topic as required.

- Corbridge, Stuart and John Harris, Reinventing India: Liberalization, Hindu Nationalism and Popular Democracy (Polity Press, Cambridge, 2000)
- Dreze and Sen India: Development and Participation (2002)
- Jenkins, Rob Economic Reform in India (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2000)
- Frankel, Francine, India's Political Economy, 1947-2000 (Oxford: 2005) Cecil Helman, Culture, Health and Society, Anubhav Series published by VHAI; Park and Park
- Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom

## Syllabus

### 1. Defining Political Economy and Development (session 1)

- a. The concept of political economy
- b. Defining development
- c. Importance of political economy and development in India

(Readings: Gilpin, The Nature of Political Economy in Goddard, et al, p. 9-24; Baylis & Smith, Chapter 29)

### 2. Theories and Perspectives on Political Economy and Development (session 2-3)

- a. Realist, Liberal, Marxist and Constructivist perspectives
- b. Gandhian perspective
- c. Development theories (Modernization, Dependency, Sen's approach)

(Readings: O'Brien & Williams, Global Political Economy, Chapter 1; Sen, Development as Freedom, *pages to be announced*; Naik, "Development and Gandhian Tradition")

### 3. Historical Context (session 4)

- a. Political and economic foundations of modern India

(Reading: Invention of Modern India (Corbridge & Harriss, Chapt. 1-3; Kaushik Basu - Less Developed Economy)

**Guest Lecture:** Dr. Pradeep Apte - Historical Context and Economic Institutional Framework (including the constitutional amendments relating to political economy, center-state relations) (Session 5)

*Screening of Film: Gandhi (date to be announced)*

### 4. From Planning to Economic Liberalization (session 6-7)

- a. Failure of Planning
- b. Why did India undertake economic reform?
- c. Politics and economics of the reform process

(Readings: Jenkins, Chapt. 4; Corbridge and Harris, Chapt 7)

## **5. Poverty, Agriculture and Rural Development (session 8)**

### a. Urban and rural poverty

(Readings: Krishna, Escaping Poverty and Becoming Poor: Who Gains, Who Loses and Why? World Development, vol. 32, no. 1, 2004, p. 121-36)

*Discussion: Slum Rehabilitation*

### b. Green Revolution; Agricultural Biotechnology (session 9)

(Readings: Vandana Shiva, "BT cotton and Farmer's Suicides"; Patentdocs, "Will Biotechnology solve the food crisis?")

*Discussion: BT cotton and Farmer's suicides: are they linked?*

## **6. Caste, Class, Gender (session 10-11)**

- a. Caste and politics
- b. Communalism
- c. Gender and development

(Readings: Manor, Ethnicity and Politics in India, International Affairs, 1996, vol. 72 no. 3, p. 459-75; Corbridge and Harriss, Chapt. 8; Dreze & Sen, Chapt. 7)

*Discussion: Reservation (Affirmative Action) in India*

## **7. Public Health Issues (session 12)**

**Guest Lecture:** Dr. Hemant Apte - Prominent Issues in Health and Development

(Reading: Health, Poverty And Development in India: Das Gupta, Monica, Lincoln C. Chen, and T. N. Krishnan (eds) - Oxford University Press, 1996; Health Care in India: a Profile, The Foundation for Research in Community Health, 1997; Reaching India's Poor : Saroj Pachauri)

## **8. Trade (session 13-14)**

- a. WTO and India
- b. Intellectual Property Rights

(Reading: Schuler, Biopiracy and Commercialization of Ethnobotanical Knowledge, at [http://books.google.co.in/books?id=V64fSz5GepsC&pg=PA159&lpg=PA159&dq=Biopiracy&source=bl&ots=85XQ592E2J&sig=ZY0gQHQHxBjyG4F2sXZp5MsmAdg&hl=en&ei=3ZXbSffLMIfg7APinsmZCA&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=4#PPA159,MI](http://books.google.co.in/books?id=V64fSz5GepsC&pg=PA159&lpg=PA159&dq=Biopiracy&source=bl&ots=85XQ592E2J&sig=ZY0gQHQHxBjyG4F2sXZp5MsmAdg&hl=en&ei=3ZXbSffLMIfg7APinsmZCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=4#PPA159,MI) Shiva, Wheat Biopiracy at <http://www.navdanya.org/articles/articles27.htm>)

## **9. Environmental Perspectives (session 15)**

**Guest Lecture:** Dr. V. Paranjpye - Sustainable development & global warming.

(Reading: Pereira, W. and J Seabrook. Asking the Earth: The Spread of Unsustainable Development; Shiva, V. An Ecological History of Food and Farming in India Vol 1: Diversity the Hindustan way. 2001)

**10. Globalization and Civil Society (session 17-18)**

- a. NGOs and India's Political Economy
- b. Impact of globalization

(Reading: Marcel van Kampen Ton Van Naerssen, Globalization and Urban Governance in Two Asian Cities: Pune (India) and Cebu (The Philippines) European Planning Studies, Volume 16, Issue 7 August 2008 , pages 941 – 954)

**Seminar:** Presentations by students

