



The Alliance for Global Education, Pune Program Spring 2010

PSED 390 Issues in Political Economy and Development

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Course Description

This course focuses on key themes related to economic and political development. It examines the way actors shape the distribution of power and wealth in India's polity and economy. It asks: What are the political and economic factors shaping India's development? How do we define development and who is development for? It seeks to understand the political and economic obstacles and opportunities facing India today. The course will focus on political economy of development in the Indian context, but the discussions will also deal with issues affecting developing countries overall.

Course Requirements

This course will encourage students to analyze and articulate their views on various issues in the class. Students should come prepared to discuss the assigned readings. An assignment and presentation will be required, in which students will be encouraged to make observations in the field and relate them to the theoretical aspects taught in class. The grading for the course will be as follows:

- Classroom attendance 10%
- Participation in class discussions 10%
- Assignments based on readings 20%
- Written assignment 30%
- Presentation 30%

Readings

- Main Text: Corbridge, Stuart and John Harris, *Reinventing India: Liberalization, Hindu Nationalism and Popular Democracy* (Polity Press, Cambridge, 2000)
- Readings for each topic are specified below in the course outline. Current newspaper and magazine articles would be added where relevant.

Course Outline

1. **Introduction** (Jan 18)
2. **Political Economy and Development: Defining the terms; Importance of Political Economy and Development in India** (Jan 20)
(Readings: Gilpin, The Nature of Political Economy in Goddard, et al, p. 9-24 and Joshi, Sharmila, Dictionary of Development)
3. **Historical Context** (Jan 22)
(Readings: Corbridge and Harris, Chapt. 1-2)
4. **Film: Gandhi** (Jan 25)
5. **Theories/Perspectives of Political Economy** (Jan 27)
(Reading: O'Brien and Williams, Global Political Economy, Chapt. 1)
6. **Theories of Development: Modernization and Dependency** (Jan 29)
7. **Gandhian perspective** (Feb 1)
(Reading: Naik, Development and Gandhian Tradition) Class discussion
8. **Amartya Sen's approach** (Feb 3)
(Reading: Sen, Development as Freedom, Introduction)
9. **Planning** (Feb 5)
(Reading: Corbridge & Harriss, p. 56-65, 78-80, 102-104)
10. **From Planning to Economic Liberalization** (Feb 8)
(Reading: Corbridge & Harriss, chapt 7)
11. **Politics and Economics of Reform** (Feb 10)
(Reading: Jenkins, Chapt. 4) Class Discussion
12. **Poverty** (Feb 15)
(Reading: Krishna, Anirudh, Pathways Out of and Into Poverty in 36 Villages of Andhra Pradesh, India, World Development, vol. 34, no. 2, pp. 271-288) 2006) Class Discussion

13. **Presentation: Right to Food** (Feb 17)
14. **Agriculture and Rural Development** (Feb 19)
15. **Presentation: Farmer's Suicides** (Feb 22)
16. **Caste, Religion and Politics** (Feb 24)
(Reading: Corbridge and Harris, p. 127-139, chapt 8-9)
17. **Gender and Development** (Feb 26)
(Reading: Dreze and Sen, India: Development & Participation, "Gender Inequality and Women's Agency) Class Discussion
18. **Presentation: Women in the Indian job market** (March 8)
19. **WTO and India** (Mar 1)
20. **Presentation: Information technology** Mar 12
21. **Intellectual Property Rights, Biotechnology** Mar 15
22. **Presentation: Bt cotton** (Mar 17)
23. **Environment and Development** (Mar 19)
Assignment Due
24. **Civil Society** (Mar 22)
25. **Globalization** (Mar 24)
(Reading: To be announced) Class Discussion
26. **Summing Up** (Mar 26)

- Evaluations** (Mar 29)