



The Alliance for Global Education, Pune Program Spring 2010

SOCJ 365 Social Justice

Dr. Vidyut Bhagwat

Objectives

To introduce the concept and practice of social justice in India as it has developed through the constitutional measures and people's movements for democracy.

To critically examine the practice of social justice with reference to specific groups such as dalits, OBCs, women and Minorities

To delineate challenges posed to the policies and practices of social justice with liberalization

Grading Structure / Evaluation

1. Short Response Essay: 20% (Weekly)
2. Field Visit & Mid-Term Assignment: 20%
3. Final Paper: 30%
4. Final Class presentation: 20%
5. Attendance and Participation: 10%

Course Syllabus

1) The Pre-colonial Conceptions of Social Justice (2 sessions)

This module will introduce the pre-colonial conceptions of Modernity

- Buddha and social justice
- Bhakti Saints and early modern voices of social justice

Readings:

Article 1: 'Heritage of Bhakti : Saint Women's Writings in Marathi' (pages 164 to 183) by Vidyut Bhagwat from the book "Culture and the Making of Identity in Contemporary India" Edited by Kamala Ganesh & Usha Thakkar; Sage Publications, New Delhi.

Article 2: "Buddhism in India: Challenging Brahmanism and Caste" (page no. 1 to 22) by Gail Omvedt; Sage Publications, New Delhi

2) The Many Voices in the Colonial Context 1 session

The second section will introduce the many and conflicting voices on social justice during the colonial period:

- Nationalists
- Working classes
- Non- Brahman movements
- Dalit movement
- Women
- Muslims as a minority community

Readings:

Article 1 - Many Voices of a Nation (page no. 334 – 404) by Bandopadhyay Sekhar from a book “Plassey to Partition – A History of Modern India; Orient Longman : New Delhi.
 Article 2: Colonial Times from “Beyond Nationalist Frames” by Sarkar Sumit; Permanent Black, New Delhi 2002

3) Caste: Ideologies and Practices of Reform and Annihilation (3 sessions)

This Module will introduce students to the contributions of

- Mahatma Phule
- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
- Constitutional and policy efforts by the Postcolonial State
- Mobilization of anti-caste politics with reference to Dalit (backward classes) (1930-1990s)

Readings:

Article 1: G.P.Deshpande, Reading Jotirao Phule in our Times, from Selected Writings of Jutirao Phule, Edited by G.P.Deshpande
 Article 2: Gail Omvedt Dalits and the Democratic Revolution
 Article 3: Gopal Guru Twentieth Century Discourse on Social Justice : A view from Quarantine India

4) Gender: Ideologies and Practices (3 sessions)

This module will focus on

- Mobilizations for modernization and democratisation and recasting of patriarchies
- Women stake claim to nation
- Constitutional measures and policy initiatives
- Mobilizations: Autonomous and mass based (1920- 1990s)

Readings:

Article 1. “Recovering Subversion: Feminist Politics Beyond the Law” by Menon Nivedita; Permanent Black: New Delhi - 2004
 Article 2: Ratna Kapur Challenging the Liberal Concept: Law and Gender Justice in India

5) Tribes: Ideologies and Practices (2 sessions)

This module will delineate

- Constitutional measures and policy initiatives
- Tribal mobilizations for identity and justice (1900- 1990s)
- The question of Nomadic and Denotified Tribes

Readings:

Article - “Tribes in India” by Xaxa Virginius from the book “Sociology and Social Anthropology” edited by Veena Das; OUP: New Delhi – 2003

6) 1990s and After: Mandal and Sacchar Conceptions (3 sessions)

This module will outline

- Mandal- Masjid -Bank Years: New challenges
- New concepts and politics for justice – OBC mobilizations
- Sacchar Committee report and question of minorities

Readings:

Article 1: Six Dalit paradoxes by D.Shyam Babu and C B Prasad

Article 2: Race or Caste, Discrimination is a Universal Concept by Anand Teltumbe

Article 3: Introduction: A Genealogy of the 1990s from “Power and Contestation – India since 1989” by Menon Nivedita and Nigam Aditya; Orient Longman: New Delhi 2004.

7) 1990s and After: Globalization of the Economy and Culture (2 sessions)

- Liberalization and de-regularization
- Debate on reservation policies for private sector
- New economies of desire and dispossession and movements for justice (anti SEZs, for example)

Readings:

Article 1. “Power and Contestation – India since 1989” by Menon Nivedita and Nigam Aditya; Orient Longman: New Delhi 2004. Chapter 3, 4 Globalisation 1: Accumulation by disposition

8) Winding Up - Balance Sheet or Critical View of ‘Global and Local’ Concerns of Social Justice (2 sessions)**Readings:**

Article 1: ‘Two Notions of Human Rights : Modern and Contemporary’ by Baxi Upendra from a book “The Future of Human Rights; OUP, New Delhi : 2008 (Third Edition)

Article 2: Humiliation: Claims and Context by Gopal Guru

9) An Interaction with Com. Vilas Sonawane (Two open sessions of 1.5 hours each)**The break-up of this course has been planned as follows:**

1. Two field visits are planned:

- a) A visit to Mahatma Phule Wada- interaction with people working as part of the Satyashodhak movement (4 hrs): All interested students will be invited.
- b) A visit to Savitribai Phule Women’s Studies Centre of the Pune University- interaction with the faculty of the center. (4 hrs): All interested students will be invited.

2. We will also screen a film on Babasaheb Ambedkar’s life by Dr. Jabbar Patel (3 hrs): All interested students will be invited.