



## **SOCJ 365 Social Justice**

### **The Alliance for Global Education Contemporary India: Development, Environment, Public Health Program, Fall 2009** *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%
2. Field Visit & Mid-Term Assignment: 20%
3. Final Paper: 30%
4. Final Class presentation: 20%
5. Attendance: 10%
6. Short Response Essay: 20%
7. Field Visit & Mid-Term Assignment: 20%
8. Final Paper: 30%
9. Final Class presentation: 20%
10. Attendance: 10%

## Course Syllabus

### i. The Pre-colonial Conceptions of Social Justice and the Many Voices in the Colonial Context (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

The second section will introduce the many and conflicting voices on social justice during the colonial period (1 session)

The voice of

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

#### Readings:

1. Article : Twentieth Century Discourse on Social Justice : A View from Quarantine India (page no. 221 – 238) by Gopal Guru from a book – “Depth of Modern Indian Thought and Social Sciences” – Edited by Bhattacharya; OUP : New Delhi 2007.
2. “Beyond National Frames” (page no. 1 – 37) by Sarkar Sumit; Permanent Black, New Delhi 2002
3. “India: Another Millennium?” By Thapar Romila (Ed); Penguin: New Delhi: 2000
4. Article: ‘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.
5. “Buddhism in India: Challenging Brahmanism and Caste” (page no. 1 to 22) by Gail Omvedt; Sage Publications, New Delhi
6. “Who Wants Democracy?” by Alam Javed; Orient Longman: New Delhi: 2004

### II. Caste: Ideologies and Practices of Reform and Annihilation (2 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:**

1. Article - 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.
2. Beyond National Frames (page no. 1 – 37) by Sarkar Sumit; Permanent Black, New Delhi 2002.
3. Article – ‘Towards a Historical materialist Analysis of the Origins and Development of Caste’ (page no. 21 – 58) by Omvedt Gail from a book “Dalits and the Democratic Revolution”; Sage Publications: New Delhi 1994.
4. Seeking Begumpura: The Social Vision of Anti-caste Intellectuals (page no. 6 to 31) by Gail Omvedt;

**III. Gender: Ideologies and Practices (2 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:**

1. “Sociology of Gender: The Challenge of Feminist Sociological Knowledge” by Rege Sharmila (Ed); Sage Publication: New Delhi.
2. “Gender Justice and Citizenship” by Mukhopadhyay, Maitreyi and Singh; Zubaan, New Delhi 2002.
3. Article ‘From Colonial to Constitutional Gender Justice and Governance’ by Jaisingh Indira from a book “Men’s Laws Women’s Lives”; Women Unlimited: New Delhi 2005
4. “Recovering Subversion: Feminist Politics Beyond the Law” by Menon Nivedita; Permanent Black: New Delhi - 2004

**IV. 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:**

1. Article - “Tribes in India” by Xaxa Virginius from the book “Sociology and Social Anthropology” edited by Veena Das; OUP: New Delhi – 2003
2. The Constitution of India: With Selective Comments by P. M. Bakshi; Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd.
3. Rehabilitation Policy and Law In India: A Right to Livelihood by Walter Fernandes & Vijay Paranjpye; Econet & Indian Social Institute.

**V. 1990s and After: Mandal and Sacchar Conceptions (2 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:**

1. “Power and Contestation – India since 1989” by Menon Nivedita and Nigam Aditya; Orient Longman: New Delhi 2004.
2. Social, Economic & Educational Status of the Muslim Community in India : A Report by Sachar Committee (November 2006); Prime Minister’s High Level Committee, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India.

**VI. 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:**

1. Article - “Social Justice as Ideology : Theory and Praxis” by Pai Sudha from the book “Dalit Assertion and the Unfinished democratic Revolution”; Sage Publications : New Delhi 2002
2. Reading Material on Social Justice : Part I, Part II & Part III containing articles, newspaper clippings, etc., written by the eminent scholars & activists and selected by Dr. Vidyut Bhagwat will also be distributed to students.

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

1. “The Idea of Justice” by Sen Amartya, Penguin Books: UK – 2009.

### **VIII. An Interaction with Prof. Ram Bapat – (Two open sessions of two hours each)**

#### **Readings:**

1. Article – ‘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)

### **IX. Evaluation and Students’ Presentations, Response and Suggestions. (1 session)**

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#### **The break-up of this course has been planned as follows:**

1. In all 18 sessions of 2 hours each will be conducted.
  2. The reading materials in parts containing articles, newspaper clippings, etc., written by the eminent scholars & activists and selected by Dr. Vidyut Bhagwat will also be distributed to students.
  3. Two field visits are planned :
    - A visit to Mahatma Phule Wada- interaction with people working as part of the Satyashodhak movement (4 hrs): All interested students will be invited.
    - 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.
  4. We will also screen a film on Babasaheb Ambedkar’s life by Dr. Jabbar Patel (3 hrs): All interested students will be invited.
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