

COURSE SYLLABUS

Contemporary India Pune, India

Course code: SOCI360

Suggested US semester credit hours: 3

Delivery method: Face to Face

Course length: Summer

Course Description

Every nation is unique in its own way. One of the world's oldest civilizations, scholars have often referred to India as a 'marvel and a paradox'. This course on "Contemporary India" seeks to acquaint students to contemporary Indian society, culture and its politics. A nation that is pitted to be a superpower with its scientific and technological advances also grapples with poverty and illiteracy. Add to it its complexities that arise out of religious, linguistic and ethnic diversities.

This course will aid the students' understanding and help contextualize current issues in India as they experience it during their stay, through interactions with local people and personal observations. Classroom participation on current issues will be the key to looking at India in its many dimensions.

Students will be able to explore and appreciate India's diversity and complexities including understanding the societal and economic divides that exist, besides politics and other issues of contemporary relevance.

The media presents all socio-economic and political aspects in its current context. It would be essential for the students to regularly read newspapers, magazines and watch the television channels to understand media perspectives. These regular readings will put issues in its perspective during classroom lectures and discussions.

The course will be both informative and analytical through lectures and discussions. It is mandatory for students to drive discussions in class based on recommended reading on specific topics, additional reading, which will be recommended in the class from time to time based on developing current issues during the semester, as well as their own interpretation and observations.

Students must read newspapers and magazines to be on the same page to drive discussions. There is a flow of topics to give a comprehensive view of issues, yet one would often observe an overlap of topics and discussions as they are inter-related.

Although time slots have been allotted to each topic, there may be times when a lecture/session may need more time or less depending on classroom interaction.

It is impossible to be an expert on India through one course. However, this course will enable students to look at India and understand its dynamics.

Learning Objectives

In this course, students will be expected to:

- Acquire working level knowledge about India in terms of her economy, politico-legal structure, her modern history and her future prospects
- Be sensitized about India's nuances in terms of religion, gender, caste and its impacts upon her social, political and economic aspects
- Achieve an understanding of where India stands today in relation to her peers in Asia and across the world in terms of geopolitical relationships, and reasons for the same
- Know more about India's ecology, and the impact of climate change to this country in the coming years
- Gain an understanding of the potential causes that make India's rise in the 21st century probable, as also an understanding of potential hindrances

Course Schedule

Sessions 01/24 and 02/24	Introduction to India's Diversity: Geography – Location and neighbors, Topography and climate, Linguistic, and Regional diversity
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Session 03/24	Introduction to Food
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Session 04/24	Introduction to Religion in India
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Session 05/24	Entrepreneurship in Emergent India
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Session 06/24	Decoding Indian Elections
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Session 07/24	Birth of the Indian Nation: The Indian Nationalist Movement and its Impact in Shaping India
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Readings:

- Ramchandra Guha; India after Gandhi, Chap. No. 2 and Chap. No. 6
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Session 08/24	Discussion on newspaper readings
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Session 09/24	Pre-Liberalization India
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Readings:

- Ramchandra Guha; India after Gandhi Chap. No. 29
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Session 10/24**A Break from the Past: The Emergence of the Great Indian Middle Class**Readings:

- Jagadish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya; India's Tryst with Destiny – Myth 2.4 and Myth 2.5
- Jagadish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya; India's Tryst with Destiny – Myth 3.1

Session 11/24**Understanding Indian Politics**Readings:

- Ramchandra Guha; India after Gandhi, Chap. No. 28 (Rulers)

Session 12/24**Terrorism and India**Readings:

- <http://www.caravanmagazine.in/reportage/bloody-crossroads>

Session 13/24**Gender in Indian Society**

Session 14/24**Introduction to LGBTQ issues in India**

Session 15/24**Representation of Indian diversity in films and literature**

Session 16/24**Discussion on newspaper readings**

Session 17/24**Caste in Indian Society**

Session 18/24**The Indian Economy: A look at the Agrarian Economy, an Overview of Myriad Problems, Services and Predicting the Future**Readings:

- Jagadish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya; India's Tryst with Destiny – Chap. 15
- Jagadish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya; India's Tryst with Destiny – Chap. 8
- Jagadish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya; India's Tryst with Destiny – Chap. 10
- Jagadish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya; India's Tryst with Destiny – Concluding remarks

Session 19/24**India and Her Demographic Dividend**Readings:

- <https://medium.com/matter-archive/what-started-the-biggest-population-boom-in-history-1909ce55ada2>

Session 20/24	India's Foreign Relations: SAARC, Asia and Beyond
Session 21/24	India and International Geo-politics in the 21st Century
Session 22/24	India and Climate Change: An Impossible conundrum?
Session 23/24	Presentations
Session 24/24	Presentations

Course Textbook

A set of photocopy material will be provided as basic background reading for each topic at the beginning of the course.

"India after Gandhi" by Ramchandra Guha

Supplemental Course Materials

Understanding Contemporary India: Eds. Sumit Ganguly & Neil de Votta

India's Tryst with Destiny: Jagadish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya

Evaluation

Attendance & Class Participation	10%
Assignment 1 presentation on reading	10%
Assignment 2 Editorial	15 %
Presentation: India After Gandhi	25 %
Research Assignment	40 %

Assessment Criteria

Assignment 1

Write an essay describing the observed contrast between the urban and rural India (**Details of the assignment will be discussed in the class.**)

(Max Marks 15 Word Limit 750) Date of Submission: 03 Oct 2017

Assignment 2

Each student will have to write a guest editorial, suitable for publication in a mainstream Indian daily, on a topic of the student's choice. The topic must be about a feature relatable to contemporary India. The "editorial" must convey an in-depth understanding of the topic chosen, and must be at least somewhat prescriptive in nature.

(Max Marks 15 Word Limit 750) Assigned 13 Oct 17; Date of Submission: 01 Nov 17

Research Assignment

Write a 1500 word essay explaining which topic you would wish to remove from the classes conducted as a part of Contemporary India, and which topic you would like to include in its place. Explain your choice of inclusion on the basis of its relevance to Contemporary India, and on the basis of your interest in the topic.

(Max Marks 50) Date of Submission: 28 Nov 17

Presentation

Prepare and deliver a presentation on the basis of your final research paper. The focus of the presentation should be on how the classes have helped in changing your view on Contemporary India, for better or for worse. The presentation should be reflective in nature.

(Max Marks 25 – Analysis, contextualising and understanding: 15 marks; Response to questions: 5 marks; Presentation: 5 marks) Date of presentation: 29 & 30 Nov 2017

NOTE: All written assignments to be typed with 1.5 line spacing, Times New Roman 12 points and emailed to the teacher. Please avoid hard copies to save paper.

Grading

Alliance programs utilize the follow standard grading policy 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

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

Everyone benefits by learning from each other; if students are not present, it affects everyone and negatively impacts the program. Attendance is required for all classes and mandatory field visits; attendance will be recorded. Students must notify their instructors and the Resident Director ahead of their absence from class or class-related activities. Class participation is expected and is a contributing factor to students' final course grades. Students' grades will be reduced one grade increment for more than two unexcused absences.

Timely Submissions

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be accepted at the discretion of the course instructor and generally only in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

Academic Integrity

Any academic endeavor must be based upon a foundation of honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by principles of academic integrity and must be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student's original work. Any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action.

IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources according to the instructions of the professor. Should your instructor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action may result. The incident will be reported to the IFSA-Butler resident director as well as your home institution.