

**Centro de Estudos Indianos
(CEI)**

**Faculdade de Letras
Universidade de Lisboa (FLUL)**

Indian Government & Politics

2017-2018 (Winter / Summer Term)

Course Unit:	Indian Government and Politics
ECTS:	6
Timetable:	4 hours a week
Academic year:	2017-2018
Semester(s):	Autumn and Spring Semesters
Professor:	Dr Amalendu MISRA

Learning Objectives

This module is the first part of a dedicated programme on India. The 2nd module on the programme is titled *India in the World*. Upon the completion of these modules the students can either major in Asian Studies programme or those from outside the university doing it on a part time basis can earn a diploma on Indian Studies

This is an introductory module on the Government and Politics in India. It is designed as much for students with some knowledge of India as well those who do not have a formal background on the subject.

Indian Government and Politics seeks to introduce students to the workings of the largest democracy in the world. It explores various strands in day-to-day governance in India. It examines how various cultural and civilisational inheritances affect the running of the country, and in turn, the lives of its citizens. The module critically assess the institutional mechanism that works towards upholding the democratic credentials enshrined in the country's constitution. While focusing on various ideological inheritances that shape the ideology of the state it provokes the students to think of topics that make India unique as a polity and society.

Curriculum Content

WEEK	Friday	TOPIC
One		<i>Introduction</i>
Two		<i>Organisation of the Indian State</i>
Three		<i>Constitution of India</i>
Four		<i>Federalism</i>
Five		<i>Caste and Politics</i>
Six		<i>The Party System</i>
Seven		<i>Pluralism and Governance</i>
Eight		<i>Democracy in India</i>
Nine		<i>Future of the Indian political system</i>
Ten		<i>Conclusion</i>

Assessment Criteria

The total contact hours for this module is 50 (Fifty) hrs. This is divided according to the following: This module comprises of 10 dedicated 1 hour lectures. Students are expected to have a 90 per cent attendance in the lectures. There will be 20 seminars of 2 hrs each (i.e 20X2). Thus the total number of teaching / seminars / consulting hours is 50 (fifty).

Students doing this module will get 6 Credits in accordance with the university regulations.

The process of assessment is 50+50 (i.e. a 3,000 words essay + an end of term 2 hour examination).

Assessment based on a written paper presented in the form of an essay (50%), and on a final test (50%) and on in-class participation (counting as a factor in determining the overall grade).

Erasmus Programme

Students who belong to the programme above shall have to return to their home university at the end of the 1st semester need to write two (2) essays of 3,000 words each which will carry the same amount of weight, as above (i.e. 50 % + 50%)..

Student support service - timetable

Timetable to be determined at the beginning of the academic year.

Admission requirements to the C. U.:

Observations:

Learning Outcomes

UPON COMPLETION OF THIS MODULE, STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Gain understanding on the nature and character of the Indian state.
- Learn about factors contributing to the workings of the biggest democracy.

- Develop an awareness on India's contribution to the shaping of contemporary international politics.

Skills

- **KEY:** intellectual (e.g. critical analysis, creative thinking, problem solving), communication (e.g. oral, listening and written), improvement of learning and performance, working with others, information and communication technology / managing information, and numeracy.
- **EMPLOYABILITY:** Research skills, communication skills, independent learning (e.g. organising and prioritising ideas), critical / independent thinking, and co-operative endeavour (e.g. tutorial based learning).
- **SUBJECT SPECIFIC:** listening skills, analytical skills, literacy skills, presentation skills, comparative method, textual analysis, the ability to develop a cogent argument, the ability to participate in a tolerant and supportive learning environment.

Bibliography

All enrolled students shall receive a study-pack in the form of electronic reading materials (journal articles, book chapters and other relevant publications) straight into e.mail. The materials provided shall cover most of the topics under discussion.

Yet, the students are encouraged to consult with some other primary and secondary materials as part of their course undertaking.

Preliminary Reading

Anderson, Perry (2013) *The Indian Ideology*, London: Verso.

Bhargava, Rajeev (2009) *Politics and Ethics of Indian Constitution*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Gandhi, M.K (1990) *Story of My Experiments with Truth*, Ahmedabad: Navjeevan.

Khilnani, Anil (2008) *The Idea of India*, London: Hamish Hamilton.

Kohli, Atul & Singh, Prema (2013) *Routledge Handbook of Indian Politics*, London: Routledge.

Misra, Amalendu (2004) *Identity and Religion*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Nehru, Jawaharlal (1986) *The Discovery of India*, New Delhi: Publications Division.

Secondary Reading

Misra, Amalendu 'The Missionary Position: Christianity and Politics of Religious Conversion in India', *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, 17, 4 (2011)

----- 'Religion, Politics, & Violence in India', in Ali Riaz (ed.) *Religion and Politics in South Asia*, New York: Routledge (2009).

----- 'Raj Mandal Theory and India's International Relations, Instituto da Defesa Nacional, IDN Journal, Lisbon 12, 4 (2016).

----- 'Life in Brackets: Minority Christians and Hegemonic Violence in Pakistan', *International Journal on Minority and Group Rights*, vol. 22, 2 (2015)

----- 'Darkness Visible: Debating Religion & Inter-Group Conflict in India', *Socialist History*, 40, (2012)

----- 'Narrating Violence: Christian-Hindu Communal Conflict in Eastern India' *South Asian Journal*, 35 (2012)

----- Hindu nationalism and Muslim minority rights in India', *International Journal on Minority and Group Rights*, 7, 1 (2000).

----- 'Theorising 'small' and 'micro' state behaviour', *Contemporary South Asia*, vol. 13, 2 (2004)

Sources of Empirical Material

Economic and Political Weekly

Indian Express

The Times of India

The Hindu

The Outlook

Bibliographic Databases

Kessing's World Archives

Internet

ndtv.com

indiatoday.com

gov.in

bbc.com

