



Introduction to Modern Indian Political Thought

Humanities and Social Sciences

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Institute: IIT Guwahati

Department: Humanities and Social Sciences

Course Intro: : Modern Indian political thought is one of the fascinating areas of scholarly debates and discussions in contemporary India. It also signifies a shift away from excessive reliance upon Eurocentric views, methods and concepts to study and interpret Indian society and its politics. The major objective of this course is to introduce the students to some of the key modern Indian thinkers and their ideas which helped in shaping the society and politics of modern India.

Pre Requisites: : None

Core/Elective: : Elective

UG/PG: : Both

Industry Support : NA

Reference : 1. Guha, Ramchandra, Makers of Modern India, Penguin: Delhi, 2010. 2. Pantham, Thomas and K. L. Deutsch eds., Political Thought in Modern India, Sage: Delhi, 1986. 3. Singh, M. P. and Himanshu Roy eds., Indian Political Thought: Themes and Thinkers, Pearson: Delhi, 2011. 4. Verma, V. P., Modern Indian Political Thought, Lakshmi Narayan Agarwal: Agra, 2005. 5. Datta, P. K. and Sanjay Palshikar eds., Indian Political Thought, ICSSR & Oxford University Press: New Delhi, 2013. 6. Mcdermott, Rachel Fell et. al., Sources of Indian Traditions, Penguin: Gurgaon, 2014. 7. Mehta, V. R., Foundations of Indian Political Thought, Manohar: Delhi, 2013. 8. Singh, Aakash and Silika Mohapatra eds., Indian Political Thought: A Reader, Routledge: London & New York, 2012. 9. Vajpeyi, Ananya, Righteous Republic: The Political Foundations of Modern India, Harvard University Press: Cambridge, 2012.

About Instructor: Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Jha teaches Political Science at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati. His research interests are - political thought in comparative perspective particularly Indian and Western political thought, political theory, Indian politics especially language and related issues of state formations in modern India. His important publications are Language Politics and Public Sphere in North India: Making of the Maithili Movement, Oxford University Press, New Delhi (2018); Glimpses of Mithila and Maithili: The Correspondence of George Abraham Grierson, Kalyani Foundation: Darbhanga (2013).



COURSE PLAN

SL.NO	Week	Module Name
1	1	Introduction to the course: general outline & methods
2	2	Raja Rammohan Roy: religious reforms, modern education & freedom of press
3	3	Rabindranath Tagore: nationalism and cosmopolitanism, idea of man
4	4	Aurobindo Ghosh: self, community and religion
5	5	Vivekananda: revitalisation of Indian life
6	6	M. K. Gandhi: Hind swaraj and the critique of modern civilisation, India of his dreams
7	7	Muhammad Iqbal: community, religion and nation
8	8	Savarkar: Hinduism and Hindutva
9	9	Jawahar Lal Nehru: Discovery of India, secularism and Internationalism
10	10	B. R. Ambedkar: caste, liberal democracy and constitutional morality
11	11	Pt. Ramabai: gender and caste
12	12	Lohiya: caste & class, and views on Indian languages