HI3K6-30 India And The Problem of Postcolonial Democracy

26/27

Department
History
Level
Undergraduate Level 3
Module leader
Aditya Sarkar
Credit value
30
Module duration
22 weeks
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module will seek to introduce students to the turbulent history of Indian democracy. It will explore “a history of events”, using six key moments in the history of post-Independence India as springboards for investigations of deep-rooted social, political and ideological tensions. The themes covered will be: the Communist Left and insurrectionary challenges to the Indian state; feminist mobilizations around the pervasiveness of sexual violence; anti-caste radicalism and the complex links between democracy and caste hierarchies; the rise of right-wing Hindu supremacism to its present hegemonic position in Indian life; and the authoritarian potentials of a formally democratic state. Each theme will be elaborated across a series of weeks, beginning with a dense narrative exploration of a discrete event, and broadening out subsequently to trace both the historical roots and the legacies of the events in question. These engagements will be designed to introduce students to the relationships between events, processes and contexts; as well as to the connections between micro-historical and macro-historical modes of analysis.

Module web page

Module aims

Students will be introduced to concepts, categories and debates surrounding a major democratic experience in the decolonized world (and, indeed, to the fraught history of “the world’s largest democracy”). They will be encouraged to think analytically about the intersections of history and political theory, and to think about democracy historically rather than normatively. By the end of the module, students should be in possession of a broader range of historical reference for thinking about problems of democracy, authoritarianism and populism; left and right; majoritarianism and minorities – all key questions both in historical and contemporary terms. They will also be introduced to diverse tranches of primary source material in a subject- area which has in fact only been very thinly mined by historians so far.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

- Week 1: Introduction;
- Weeks 2-3: Transitions from Colonialism;
- Weeks 4-5: India as A Postcolonial Democracy;
- Week 7: Authoritarian Populism - I: The Emergency, 1975-77;
- Weeks 8-10: The Left In Postcolonial India;
- Weeks 11-12: Gender And Feminist Movements;
- Weeks 13-15: Caste And Democratic Politics;
- Weeks 17-19: The Hindu Right and the Politics of Majoritarianism;
- Week 20: Authoritarian Populism - II: The Present

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of a major democratic experience in the decolonized world, and the fraught history of “the world’s largest democracy”
- Critically analyse and evaluate a broad range of sources relating to the history of democracy in India
- Effectively communicate ideas, and make informed, coherent and persuasive arguments, relating to problems of democracy, authoritarianism and populism; left and right; majoritarianism and minorities
- Critically review and consolidate theoretical, methodological, and historiographical ideas relating to the intersections of history and political theory, and to the history of democracy

Indicative reading list

Reading lists can be found in Talis

Specific reading list for the module

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Tutorials	4 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Private study	260 hours (87%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Seminar contribution	10%		No

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Reassessment component			
1000 word reflective essay in lieu of Seminar Contribution			Yes (extension)
Assessment component			
1500 word essay	10%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
3000 word source based essay	40%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
3000 word essay	40%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Termly module feedback and responses by module leader.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 4 of UENA-VQ33 Undergraduate English and History (with Intercalated year)
- Year 3 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 4 of UHIA-V104 Undergraduate History (with Intercalated Year)

- Year 4 of UHIA-V101 Undergraduate History (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V9 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Intercalated Year)
- UHIA-V1V8 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
    - Year 3 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
    - Year 4 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- UHIA-VM14 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
    - Year 3 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
    - Year 4 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL17 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Intercalated Year)
- UHIA-VL16 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
    - Year 3 of VL16 History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
    - Year 4 of VL16 History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL14 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 4 of UHIA-V101 Undergraduate History (with Year Abroad)
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM15 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL14 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad)