DEMOCRACY IN INDIA – HOW FAR?

Professor: Christophe Jaffrelot
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BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Christophe JAFFRELOT joined the CNRS in 1991; was awarded the CNRS Bronze Medal in 1993; became senior research fellow of second class in 2002 and senior research fellow of first class in 2008.
He has served as deputy director of CERI from 1997 to 2000 and as director from 2000 to 2008.
Has founded four book series published by Fayard, Autrement, Hurst and Palgrave.
Member of the editorial boards of Critique Internationale, Anatolia, Cultures et Conflits, Nations and nationalism, International Political Sociology, Third Frame and India Review.
Professor of Indian Politics and Sociology in the King’s India Institute (King’s College, London) since 2011.
Permanent Consultant at the Direction de la Prospective of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
President of the research group on emerging countries at Institut Montaigne.
Member of the scientific councils of the Südasiern Institut of Heidelberg University, of the Zentrum Moderner Orient / Centre for Modern Oriental Studies, Berlin, of the Jindal University (Sonapet - India), of the Center for the Study of Multilevel Federalism (New Delhi), of the South Asia Center of Göttingen University, of the Encyclopaedia of Mass Violence and of Sciences Po Master of Public Affairs.
Christophe Jaffrelot chairs the Scientific council of the six research centers of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CNRS in Asia since 2007.
He is president of the Political Science section of the French National Committee for Scientific Research (CoNRS) since 2012.
Christophe Jaffrelot is Senior Research Fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS in Paris. He teaches South Asian politics at Sciences Po, Yale and King’s College (London).

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction

Session 1: The « world's largest democracy » and political theory – India as the exception?

Readings:

Part one: Why and how democracy in India

Session 2: Why democracy in India? (1) The British graft

Readings:
- David Washbrook, “The rhetoric of democracy and development in late colonial India”, in S. Bose and A. Jalal (eds), Nationalism, development and democracy: state and politics in India, Delhi, Oxford University Press, 1998, pp. 36-49.
Session 3: Why democracy in India? (2) The long-term political and societal factors

Readings:

Part two: Elitism and authoritarianism

Session 4: The « Congress system » or conservative democracy

Readings:

Session 5: The Emergency: the black face of Indian politics

Readings:
Part three: the democratisation of Indian democracy

Session 6: Democracy by caste: the rise to power of the lower castes

Readings:

Session 7: Federalism, from the era of coalitions to BJP’s hegemony

Readings:
- Katharine Adeney and Lawrence Sàez (eds), Coalition Politics and Hindu Nationalism, New-York, Routledge, 2005

Part Four: The ethnicisation of Indian democracy

Session 8: Hindu nationalism takes over

Readings:
Session 9: The marginalisation of Muslims

Readings:

Part Five: What « shining India »?

Session 10: Corruption cum criminalisation of politics and the resilience of the rule of law

Readings:
- Arun Kumar, The black economy in India, New Delhi, Viking, 1999, pp. 17-54.

Session 11: The agricultural crisis and the spreading of Maoism

Readings:
- Deaton and J. Drèze, “Poverty and Inequality in India. A Re-examination”, Economic and political weekly, 7 septembre 2002, pp. 3734-3735.
Session 12: The economic reform and the new middle class

Readings:
- Ashutosh Varshney, "Mass politics or elite politics? Understanding the politics of India's economic reforms", in J. Sachs, A. Varshney and N. Bajpai (eds), India in the era of economic reforms, New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 1999, p. 222-60.
- Zoya Hasan, "Changing political orientations of the middle classes in India", in Middle class values in India and Western Europe, New Delhi, Social Science Press, 2002, pp. 152-170.

BIBLIOGRAPHY