



INTRODUCTION TO MODERN INDIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT

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INTENDED AUDIENCE : UG and PG students of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences and Engineering

COURSE OUTLINE :

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.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Prof. Mithilesh Kumar Jha teaches Political Science in 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 :

Week 1: Introduction to the course: general outline & methods

Week 2: Raja Rammohan Roy: religious reforms, modern education & freedom of press

Week 3: Rabindranath Tagore: nationalism and cosmopolitanism, idea of man

Week 4: Aurobindo Ghosh: self, community and religion

Week 5: Vivekananda: revitalisation of Indian life

Week 6: M. K. Gandhi: Hind swaraj and the critique of modern civilisation, India of his dreams

Week 7: Muhammad Iqbal: community, religion and nation

Week 8: Savarkar: Hinduism and Hindutva

Week 9: Jawahar Lal Nehru: Discovery of India, secularism and Internationalism

Week 10: B. R. Ambedkar: caste, liberal democracy and constitutional morality

Week 11: Pt. Ramabai: gender and caste

Week 12: Lohiya: caste & class, and views on Indian languages