

India today, Society, politics and economy

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Type de cours / Course type : 18 heures / 18 hours

Langue du cours/language of instruction : English

Descriptif du cours et des objectifs pédagogiques/ Course description and objectives

India, as vast as six times France and more populous (1.4 billion inhabitants) than the whole of Europe, constitutes, through its history, religious, linguistic, and ethnic diversity, as well as its spatial, economic, and social contrasts, a quasi-continent. Contemporary India, "united by its immense diversity," hence its official designation, "the Indian Union" in its 1950 Constitution, challenges our traditional analytical scales and has much to teach us. Currently composed of 28 states and 9 territories, this federal republic has been striving for over 70 years to preserve a democratic system despite the power of Hindu nationalism. However, unlike the highly powerful China, India does not fully utilize its economic and military potential (being the world's largest arms importer and a nuclear-armed nation) to assert itself regionally and internationally, although its cultural influence is undeniable, thanks to an economically and politically active diaspora of over 20 million people. How will this emerging world, caught between power and vulnerability, manage to meet the numerous challenges in terms of economic, social, and environmental justice, and maintain stability in a troubled regional and global environment?

Dispositif d'enseignement à distance envisagé/ Online teaching method

- 2X45 mn-to-one-hour online interactive classes every two weeks for nine weeks
- podcast lectures providing background knowledge for each topic

Evaluation/assessment

- An oral presentation of an academic paper that will be serve as the basis for class discussion. A writer 500-word reading report will have to be sent to the professor prior to class (40%)
- Participation in class discussion (10%)
- A final paper at the end of semester (50%)

Plan des séances/Course outline

- A secular republic challenged by communal tensions
- The fabric of caste beyond hinduism
- A demographic giant through the lens of gender inequalities
- Rapid urbanization and a rapidly changing rural world
- An emerging power in the global economy
- Internal and external geopolitics of a country in search of power

Bibliographie sélective/select bibliography

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- Drèze J. and Sen, A., *India: Development and Participation*. Oxford University Press, 2002
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- Ganguly S., Blarel N. (eds), "*India's Foreign Policy: Retrospect and Prospect*" Oxford University Press, 2019
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- Jaffrelot Ch., *L'Inde de Modi, national populisme et démocratie ethnique*, Fayard, 2019
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- Kakar S., "*The Indians: Portrait of a People*", Penguin Books India, 2007
- Kohli A., *The political and economic origins of a global power*, 2022
- Kundu A., Seetharam S., "*Urban India: Policies, Initiatives, and Challenges*", Springer, 2016
- Manier B., *La route verte des Indes, au pays des transitions écologiques tranquilles*, Rue de l'échiquier, 2018
- Marius K., *les inégalités de genre en Inde, regard au prisme des études postcoloniales*, Kartathala, 2016
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- Meyer E.P., *une histoire de l'Inde, les Indiens face à leur passé*, Albin Michel, 2019
- Patil R.B., Care S., *Cities and Sustainability: Issues and Strategic Pathways*", Springer (2020)
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- Saint-Mézard I., *l'Atlas de l'Inde, une nouvelle puissance mondiale*, Ed. Autrement, 2016
- Raghavan S. (ed.), *India in the World: An Introduction to International Relations*", Oxford University Press, 2018
- Subramaniam J., *India's Relations with the World: Concepts, Issues, and Trends*, Sage Publications , 2018
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- Tillin L. *Making India Work: The Development of Welfare in a Multi-Level Democracy*. Cambridge University Press; 2025.