

## HSS4062: Indian Modernity

Programme: B.Tech.

Year:IV

Semester: Odd

Course: Indian Modernity: Text and Context

Credits:3

Hours:40

**Course Context and Overview (100 words):** The purpose of this course is to understand the concept of modernity in a wider socio-political and philosophical context. Born in the west, Modernity has travelled far and implanted itself as Alternative Modernity in geographically and culturally distant locations. The students shall explore how Alternative Modernities with their political and historiographic debates and their experience with colonialism are constructed around the idea of nationalism. In this course, the students shall critically examine Indian Modernity in its colonial- historical and socio-cultural context. It will help them understand the nuances of cultural globalization, issues of gender, class and caste in the broad framework of Indian Modernity.

**Prerequisites Courses:** N/A

**Course outcomes (COs):**

<b>On completion of this course, the students will have the ability to:</b>
CO1 acquire an understanding of the concept of modernity
CO2 place modernity in a broad socio-historical and philosophical framework
CO3 examine Indian modernity with respect to colonialism and nationalism
CO4 analyze the nuances of cultural globalization
CO5 establish relationship between tradition and modernity and explore the intersection of modernity with dominant vectors of identity such as gender, caste, class and religion.

**Course Topics:**

Topics	Lecture Hours	
<b>UNIT – I</b>		
<b>Topic- Understanding Modernity</b>		
1.1 Defining Modernity, Historical and Philosophical Background of Western Modernity, Phases of Modernity, Theoretical Approaches: Introduction to the thoughts of Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Marx, and Foucault on the discourse of Enlightenment, Rationality and Modernity	2	6

1.2	Alternative Modernity	1	
1.3	Modernity, Globalization and Identity, Nuances of Cultural Globalization	3	
<b>UNIT – II</b>			12
<b>Topic- Indian Modernity: An Overview</b>			
2.1	Intellectual Traditions in Modern India, Engaging with Colonial Modernity	2	
2.2	Intellectuals and the Project of Modernity; Readings in <i>Hind Swaraj</i> ; <i>Nationalism</i> ; <i>Renaissance in India</i> (Excerpts)	6	
2.3	Indian Freedom Struggle; Gandhi, Nehru and Tagore and the debate on Nationalism, Colonialism and Secular Modernity	4	
<b>UNIT – III</b>			10
<b>Topic- Indian Social Reality and Modernity</b>			
3.1	Colonialism and the Advent of Indian Modernity	2	
3.2	Modernity and the Indian Social Reality	2	
3.3	Reading Mulk Raj Anand's <i>Untouchable</i>	6	
<b>UNIT – IV</b>			12
<b>Topic- Nationalism and Modernity</b>			
4.1	Cultural Globalization, Nationalism, Gender and Modernity	2	
4.2	Reading Rabindranath Tagore's <i>The Home and the World</i>	6	
4.3	Writing term paper and making a presentation on a modern Indian text	4	

**Text Books/Chapters:**

*Untouchable* by Mulk Raj Anand. New Delhi: Penguin India, 2001.

*The Home and the World* by Rabindranath Tagore. New Delhi: Penguin Classics, 2005.

*Nationalism* by Rabindranath Tagore

*Hind Swaraj* By M.K. Gandhi

*Renaissance in India* by Sri Aurobindo

Art of Resistance in the Era of Cultural Globalization by Avijit Pathak

A Different Modernity by Gyan Prakash

**Reference books:**

Appadurai, Arjun. *Modernity At Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996.

Chakrabarty, Dipesh. *Habitations of Modernity*. New Delhi: Permanent Black, 2002.

Gaonkar, Dilip Parmeshwar. *Alternative Modernities*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2001

Gupta, Dipankar. *Mistaken Modernity*. New Delhi: HarperCollins, 2000

Jodhka, Surinder. (ed.) *Interrogating India's Modernity: Democracy, Identity, and Citizenship*, New Delhi: OUP, 2013.

Pathak, Avijit. *Indian Modernity: Contradictions, Paradoxes and Possibilities*. New Delhi: Gyan Publishing House, 1998.

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Prakash, Gyan. *Another Reason: Science and The Imagination of Modern India*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999

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### Evaluation Methods:

Item	Weightage
Quiz/Assignment	30%
Term Paper/Presentation	
Midterm	25%
Final Examination	45%

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**Course Instructor: Manju Dhariwal**  
**Last Update: 25.03.2021**