Objectives
Power and politics has remained one of the central experiences and concern of the human condition throughout the ages. Drawing from a wide range of sources from the social sciences and the humanities, the primary objective of this course is to familiarize the students with the foundational issues of political power and authority and its linkages with state, governance, and development. This paper is designed as a text-based exploration and will thus require the students to immerse into original texts to develop their comprehension, analytic, and writing skills. While the list of texts offers a wide intellectual and historical sweep, the teaching and reading will focus on the core issues listed on each Unit.

Unit I: Conceptualizing Human Collectives (10)
A. From hoards to human groups
B. Basic attributes of human groups: norms, rules, power, politics and authority
C. Formal organizations and their basic characteristics
D. The political community

Unit II: Foundational Classics (10)
A. Emergence of political power
B. The idea of state
C. Government and Representation

Unit III: Political Traditions and Practices (15)
A. Politics and power in tribal societies
B. Nature of political leadership
C. Pre-state formations
D. Anthropology/sociology and the study of politics

Unit IV: Comparative Readings in Asian Political Systems (15)
A. Confucian authority
B. East Asian developments
C. Hindu and Muslim authority
D. South Asian politics

Unit V. Politics and Power Under Different Forms of Regimes (20)
A. Despotic and dictatorial regime: Thomas Hobbes on the “Leviathan” State, prohibition of civic right of the population, political processes guided by the interest and control of a minority of the ruling population
B. Democratic regimes under western liberal tradition: John Locke: the state as a defender of civic right of the population; J.S. Mills: representative government; Polyarchy, competitive process and majority support as the basis of establishing political legitimacy; political parties and interest groups as mechanisms of interest articulation and political socialization; role of civil society
C. Socialist critique to the western form of democratic regime: Karl Marx: the instrumental role of the state; the concept of dominant class, power block and relative autonomy of the state; socialist regimes: a critique.

Unit VI. Political Violence and the Human Condition (15)
A. Forms of violence
B. Ethnonationalism
C. State coercion
D. Transitional conflicts

Unit VII. Patterns of Political Transitions and Consolidations (15)
A. Regime change
B. Social movements and intensity of change of the regime
C. Transitional challenges

Unit VIII. State order, state capacity and authority (15)
A. Establishing the rule of law
B. The culture and politics of corruption
C. Forms of state control: coercion, hegemony and hegemonic formations
D. Society-state interface
E. Limiting state capacity

Unit IX. Discourses and Critique of Power, State, Development, and Governmentality (20)
A. Embodied power
B. Pre-modern and modern logics of power
C. Bureaucratic reason and unreason
D. Emergence of a development state
E. International development regime

Unit X. Globalization and Governance (15)
A. Historical context of globalization and global connection of developing societies
B. Shift from 'govern' to governance
C. Public administration reform
D. Global governance
REQUIRED READINGS

Unit I. Conceptualizing Human Collectives


Unit II. Foundational Classics


Unit III. Political Traditions and Practices


**Unit IV. Comparative Readings in Asian Political Systems**


**Unit V. Politics and Power Under Different Forms of Regimes**


Unit VI. Patterns of Political Transitions and Consolidations


Unit VII. Political Violence and the Human Condition


Unit VIII. State Order, State Capacity and Authority


**Unit IX. Discourses and Critique of Power, State, Development and Governmentality**


**Unit X. Globalization and Governance**


