

IIT Mandi Proposal for a New Course

Course Number	: HS524
Course Name	India in the 1950s: Biography of a Foundational Decade
Credits	: 3-0-0-3
Prerequisites	: None
Intended for	: Ph.D./Masters/B.Tech. (3 rd and 4 th Sem)
Distribution	: Free Elective
Semester	: Even/Odd

1. Preamble:

This course will introduce students to a seminal decade in Indian history by focusing on political developments, economic choices and social ferment in the immediate aftermath of Independence. Relying on research by historians, sociologists and political scientists, it will trace departures from—and continuities with—late colonial India. Students will learn to assess the impact of developmental decisions taken in the 1950s on present-day India. Debates in the realms of free speech, international relations, gender justice, citizenship and nationalism—all pertinent today—will be surveyed and students will learn to evaluate the very real impact of the past on the present. Each module will begin with a discussion of a contemporary debate to flag important issues in India today, with a view to tracing their genealogy. However, the aim of this course will be to understand the 1950s in its own terms.

2. Course Modules:

Module 1: Introduction to a Foundational Decade (2 hours)

- Why (and who should) study the 1950s?

Module 2: Refugees and Citizens in Independent India (8 hours)

- The Impact of Partition on Indian Polity
- Resettlement: A Case Study of Delhi
- Rehabilitation: A Case Study of Calcutta

Module 3: Forging India: States and the Nation (8 hours)

- Integration of Princely States

- Linguistic Reorganization of States
- Making of the Indian Constitution

Module 4: Experimenting with Democracy (6 hours)

- 1st General Elections
- Developmental Strategies: Debates

Module 5: Legislating Gender Relations (2 hours)

- The Hindu Code Bill Controversy

Module 6: India's International Relations in the 1950s (8 hours)

- The Cold War context (Relations with the USA and the USSR)
- The Non-Aligned movement
- Relations with Pakistan (Kashmir, Indus Waters)
- Relations with China

Module 7: The State and Media in the 1950s (8 hours)

- Debates over 'free speech' in Independent India
- 1st Amendment to the Constitution: Public Reaction
- Press Act of 1952
- Nation-Building Cinema of the 1950s

3. Textbooks:

- Gyanesh Kudaisya, *A Republic in the Making: India in the 1950s* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

4. References :

- Ravinder Kaur, *Since 1947: Partition and Punjabi Migrants of Delhi* (Oxford University Press, 2007)
- Joya Chatterji, *The Spoils of Partition: Bengal and India, 1947-67* (Cambridge University Press, 2007).
- Tai Yong Tan and Gyanesh Kudaisya, *The Aftermath of Partition in South Asia* (Routledge, 2000).
- Ornit Shani, *How India Became Democratic: Citizenship and the Making of the Universal Franchise* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).
- Ananya Vajpeyi, *Righteous Republic: The Political Foundations of Modern India* (Harvard University Press, 2012).
- Asha Sarangi, *Language and Politics in India* (Oxford University Press, 2009).
- Sudha Pai and Avinash Kumar, *Revisiting 1956: BR Ambedkar and States Reorganization* (Orient Blackswan 2014).
- Paul Brass, *Language, Religion and Politics in North India* (Cambridge University Press, 1974).
- Pulapre Balakrishnan, *Economic Growth in India: History and Prospect* (Oxford University Press, 2010)
- B.R. Tomlinson, *The Economy of Modern India, 1860-1970* (Cambridge University Press, 1993).
- Chitra Sinha, *Debating Patriarchy: The Hindu Code Bill Controversy in India, 1941-1956* (Oxford University Press, 2012).
- Paul M. McGarr, *India, Pakistan and the Early Cold War, 1947-1956* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).
- Srinath Raghavan, *War and Peace in Modern India* (Permanent Black, 2010).

5. Similarity Content Declaration with Existing Courses

S.N.	Course Code	Similarity Content	Approx. % of Content
	HS 255 India Since Independence	Partition The Nehruvian Era Five year Plans	15%
	HS 262 The Indian Constitution	Making of the Constitution	5%
	HS 263 Popular Culture in Modern India	Nation Building Cinema of the 1950s	5%

			25%
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5. Justification for new course proposal if cumulative similarity content is > 30%: N/A
