

**South Asian University
Department of Sociology**

South Asian Social Thought

Objective: This course aims at developing an informed understanding of some of the most crucial ideas propounded by prominent leaders/thinkers of modern South Asia. With the help of specifically reading and discussing writings of the figures themselves and not reflections or commentaries on their ideas, the intention is to develop a first-hand understanding of key ideas propounded by these significant personalities who majorly shaped South Asia's entry into modernity and what followed subsequently.

UNIT – I Approaching Modernity: Embracing, Questioning and Re-visioning

- 1.1 On the need to be modern: Raja Rammohan Roy and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.
- 1.2 Quest for another modernity: Rabindranath Tagore and Ananda K. Coomaraswamy.
- 1.3 Questioning modernity: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.
- 1.4 Unsettling the English-Modern equation: Laxmi Prasad Devkota.

UNIT – II Religion and Politics: Reflections from South Asia

- 2.1 A case for composite nationalism: Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- 2.2 Muslim nationalism and the quest for separatism: Muhammad Iqbal and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.
- 2.3 Essentialised religion and the politics of othering: M. S. Golwalkar and V. D. Savarkar.
- 2.4 A case for secular politics: Jawaharlal Nehru and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

UNIT – III The Dissenting Tradition in South Asia

- 3.1 Questioning the functionality of caste and religious order: Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, B. R. Ambedkar and Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy
- 3.2 On the patriarchal foundations of Indian society: Pandita Ramabai and Tarabai Shinde.
- 3.3 Dissenting against ideological confines: M. N. Roy and Jayaprakash Narayan.
- 3.4 Literary dissent and responsible art: Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Krishan Chander and Mahasweta Devi.

UNIT – IV Crucial threads of South Asian thought at present

- 4.1 Ashis Nandy and the concern around marginalized systems of knowledge.
- 4.2 Eqbal Ahmad on Islam and Politics and The Roots of Religious Right.
- 4.3 Gananath Obeyesekere and the world of the irrational.
- 4.4 The artistic promise of Humayun Ahmed's literary and cinematic genius.

READINGS:

1. Ahluwalia, B. K. (ed.), 1970, *M. K. Gandhi: Select Writings*, Delhi: Sagar Publications.
2. Alam, Fakhrul and Radha Chakrabarthy (eds.) 2011, *The Essential Tagore*, Harvard: Harvard University Press.
3. Chakravarty, Amiya (ed.), 1961, *A Tagore Reader*, New York: The MacMillan Company.
4. Coomaraswamy, Rama P. (ed.), 2004, *The Essential Ananda K. Kumaraswamy*, Indiana: World Wisdom.
5. Devkota, Laxmi Prasad, *Haai! Haai! Angreji* (trans. Michael Hutt), Available at http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/journals/ebhr/pdf/EBHR_44_15.pdf
6. Deshpande, Govind P. (ed.), 2002, *Selected Writings of Jotirao Phule*, New Delhi: New Delhi.
7. Guha, Ramachandra (ed.), 2012, *Makers of Modern India*, New Delhi: Penguin.
8. Ghose, Jogendra Chunder (ed.), [1906] 1945, *The English Works of Raja Rammohun Roy – Volume I*, Calcutta: Sadharan Brahma Samaj.
9. Iqbal, Afzal (ed.), 1963, *Select Writings and Speeches of Mohamed Ali: Volume I and II*, Lahore: Sh. Muhammad Ashraf.
10. Iyengar, Uma (ed.), 2007, *The Oxford India Nehru*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
11. Iyer, Raghavan (ed.), 2003, *The Essential Writings of M. K. Gandhi*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
12. Muhammad, Shan (ed.), 1972, *Writings and Speeches of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan*, Bombay: Nachiketa.
13. Nag, Kalidas and Debajyoti Burman (eds.), 1945, *The English Works of Raja Rammohun Roy – Part I*, Calcutta: Sadharan Brahma Samaj.
14. Nandy, Ashis, 2004, *Bonfire of Creeds*, New Delhi: OUP.
15. Nehru, Jawaharlal, 2012 (1946), *The Discovery of India*, New Delhi: Penguin.
16. Obeyesekere, Gananath, 1992, *The Apotheosis of Captain Cook: European Mythmaking in the Pacific*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
17. Parel, Anthony (ed.), 1997, *Hind Swaraj and other writings*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
18. Roy, M. N., 1952, *Radical Humanism*, New Delhi: Janta Press.
19. Shahabuddin, Syed (ed.), 2007, *Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Selected Speeches and Writings*, Gurgaon: Hope India.
20. Sherwani, Latif Ahmad (ed.), 2006, *Speeches, Writings and Statements of Iqbal*, New Delhi: Adam Publishers.
21. Tagore, Rabindranath, 2010, *Crisis in Civilisation and Other Essays*, New Delhi: Rupa Publications.

22. Tharu, Susie and K. Lalita (eds.), 1991, *Women Writing in India, Volume I*, New York: The Feminist Press.
23. 1956, *Speeches of Maulana Azad: 1947-1955*, Delhi: Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.