

Online Certificate Course

“ELECTORAL DYNAMICS”

This course offers a structured introduction to electoral studies using India as its primary case, situated in comparative dialogue with democracies across the Global South. It moves from the basics of how elections are designed and who participates, through the political economy of campaigns and money, to the harder question of what happens when elections stop being genuinely competitive. The analysis is grounded in evidence throughout. No prior background in political science is required.

 1st Oct – 31st Oct 2026 |  6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (IST)

INSTRUCTOR



Prof. (Dr.) Prachy Hooda

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR &
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, IDEAS

Register Now
Scan the QR Code



Total Sessions: 8 (Tuesday and Thursday)

No specific academic qualifications or prior disciplinary background are required

Participants who complete all evaluation components and maintain the required attendance will receive an official Certificate of Completion issued by the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS), O.P. Jindal Global University.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Week 1: The Puzzle of Elections

Why elections surprise us, who votes and why, and how results translate into representation

Week 2: How Votes Are Won

The architecture of caste coalitions, and the political economy of money and criminality in electoral competition

Week 3: Campaigns, Media and Welfare

How campaigns are organised and whether they work, and the electoral logic of social policy and welfare schemes

Week 4: Democracy Under Pressure:

When elections stop being free and fair, and what reforms would make Indian democracy more competitive and representative

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Vaishnav, M. and Mallory, C. (2024). "The Resilience of India's Fourth Party System". Carnegie
- Banerjee, M. (2014). Why India Votes. Routledge. [Chapter 1]
- Chhibber, P. and Verma, R. (2018). Ideology and Identity: The Changing Party Systems of India. Oxford University Press. [Chapter 2]
- Levitsky, S. and Ziblatt, D. (2018). How Democracies Die. Crown. [Chapters 1 and 2]
- Sharma, A.D. (2024). The Backstage of Democracy: India's Election Campaigns and the People Who Manage Them. Cambridge University Press.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Explain how electoral systems work and what their design implies for representation and political outcomes
- Analyse voter behaviour using sociological, economic, and political frameworks
- Assess the role of money, campaigns, and media in shaping electoral competition
- Evaluate the relationship between electoral politics and welfare policy
- Apply the concept of democratic backsliding to the Indian case using comparative evidence

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Anyone with a bachelor's degree who is curious about Indian politics, elections, and democracy and wants a structured analytical introduction
- Civil society practitioners and electoral reform advocates
- Policy researchers and analysts working on governance and democratic institutions
- Postgraduate students in political science, public policy, sociology, or related fields
- Educators teaching civics, political science, or contemporary Indian affairs

INSTRUCTOR



Prof. (Dr.) Prachy Hooda

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
IDEAS

Dr. Prachy Hooda is a researcher and academic working at the intersection of gender, sports, society, and governance. She holds a PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, which examined the relationship between gender, sports, and governance, with a particular focus on Haryana and the ways in which social structures, institutions, and everyday practices shape gendered sporting experiences and opportunities.

Her research interests include the sociology of sports, gender and society, state–non-state institutional linkages, changing ruralities, and the evolving socio-cultural milieu of Haryana. She writes on questions of social change, identities, aspirations, and the transformations shaping rural and regional life in contemporary India.

Before joining IDEAS, Dr. Hooda was a UGC Senior Research Fellow and a Research Affiliate at National Law University Delhi. Her work reflects a continued engagement with understanding how larger processes of governance and social change are experienced in everyday life.

I.D.E.A.S. *at a* GLANCE

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Constellations

ABOUT US

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS) at O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) serves as a university-wide platform for fostering interdisciplinary teaching, research, and community engagement across the social sciences. It brings together scholars, students, and practitioners to co-create knowledge and develop innovative responses to complex real-world challenges.

At its core, IDEAS operates as an intellectual incubator, supporting collaborative scholarship, experimental pedagogy, and research that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. Through its initiatives and field-based programmes, it promotes critical inquiry, applied learning, and engagement with pressing development concerns.

With a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary dialogue, global academic exchange, and community-linked research, IDEAS aims to cultivate a dynamic academic environment that connects theory with practice and advances socially relevant scholarship.