

MINUTES of the May 23, 2022 Second Board of Studies Meeting of the Department of Political Science for the Academic Year 2021-22

Members present were Prof. Prashant Kelkar, Prof. Chaitra Redkar,

Ms. Harini Calamur, Ms. Shahnaz Shaikh and Dr. Paul Rozario.

Dr. Rozario shared the Agenda for the Meeting which was :-

AGENDA

- 1) To discuss and approve the changes in SYBA Gandhism (Applied Component) Paper and
- 2) To discuss the changes in TYBA Paper V Western Political Thought.

Ms. Harini Calamur suggested that the Syllabus content should be more applicable and suited to the recent generation. So she suggested that in TYBA Paper V to include Indian Socialists and Recent Feminists. To include the political ideas/thought of Bhagat Singh, and Amartya Sen was suggested. Contributions of Indian Socialists of the last 30 years, Social Welfare Theorists, NREGA were also suggested. Also, as alternative to /in addition to Simone de Beauvoir the thought of recent Feminists, especially related to the Service Economy, the Glass Ceiling, Women of Colour, Intersectionality, etc. were also suggested in order to make the references more understandable for the students. As regards Ram Manohar Lohia Ms. Calamur stated that it would be useful to consider the work of Datta Samant, and Dange.

Prof. Prashant Kelkar agreed and said that Ms. Calamur was correct and suggested that we think on those lines

In response to Ms. Calamur's suggestions to include recent thinkers and remove the "older" thinkers, Dr. Rozario queried whether in Multiculturalism to include the work of critics like Jonathan Sachs (Multiculturalism is dead) as it would totally negate what Multiculturalism is.

Prof. Chaitra Redkar responded that she felt no need to add any material on Multiculturalism or Feminism, along the lines suggested by Ms. Calamur

Prof. Redkar stated that the way we upgrade technology, the same approach cannot be applied when we are teaching the history of ideas, and philosophies. Her view was that we cannot skip the basic ideas and thoughts of the classical thinkers and teach some new or recent thinkers. As an option students could be given the choice to do projects and assignments so as to update themselves with the more recent formulations. On Beauvoir, Prof. Redkar stated that she has specific significance as a milestone a standpoint, to look at what has happened in the past and what comes later. Therefore, she strongly insisted that the basic concepts cannot be left out, while the later developments could always be introduced. Raising the query on whether Amartya Sen could be treated as a political thinker, she pointed out that Lohia was important because he represented the Indian variant of Socialism. With his critique of World Communism and Socialistic analysis of Caste, Language, Religion, he was unique and unlike any other Indian Socialist. As for Dange, she stated he was a Communist and not a Socialist and as a Trade Unionist he just used the traditional Socialist framework. In comparison as Nehru and Lohia had offered their unique versions of Socialism, she felt their inclusion in the syllabus was more justified.

In response to Ms. Calamur interjection that Amartya Sen's vast body of work on Nationalism was worthy of consideration for inclusion in the module on Tagore and Savarkar, Prof. Redkar stated in agreement that the work of Partha Chatterjee, the Subaltern Critique, Benedict Anderson would also be relevant.

Ms. Calamur, reiterated that while the teaching the basic ideas is good, as a lot of these ideas had been replaced she expressed concern that they might move away if not given anything that they can relate to.

Dr. Rozario suggested that with inputs and approval from the Board Members, a separate Module on Contemporary Thinkers could be added to Paper V. As an alternative, Prof. Redkar suggested that as part of one's pedagogy, the introductory lecture could cover the Contemporary contributions and Debates on the State, thus providing the much needed link and connection needed to each thinker. She also suggested that getting One Invited Guest Lecture by an Expert focusing on recent developments would adequately supplement and update the content covered in the syllabus.

Prof. Redkar wondered how Gandhism was made an Applied Component Paper. Dr. Rozario explained that Annual Khadi and Student-made Handicraft Exhibitions, Visits to Mani Bhavan etc were part of the activities treated as Applied Component. Prof. Redkar stated that despite being an Area Specialist on Gandhism, she felt that over the years it has become extremely difficult to "teach" Gandhian ideas such as Nonviolence in a manner that students would take it seriously. Also, teaching spinning, use of the charkha etc, have become impractical due to non availability of proper material inputs. Gandhi was also included in the Paper V in Indian Political Thought. Hence, she suggested doing away with this course and to replace with a more relevant Course.

Ms. Calamur suggested a Course on Rights (Do I have a Right to Not have Open Potholes in Roads). Dr. Rozario mentioned that Political Science Papers I and II, as well as FYBA and SYBA Foundation Course Papers had many modules on Rights. He suggested Electoral Studies, Public Policy, Peace and Conflict Resolution as possible options. Both Ms. Calamur and Prof. Redkar agreed upon Public Policy as a suitable choice, as it would also enable data collection, conducting surveys on various local and contemporary issues and immensely help students and fulfill the Applied Component Course requirements.

Dr. Rozario requested Ms. Calamur for her inputs on the possible introduction of an Additional Credit Course on Digital Democracy.

Dr. Rozario closed the meeting after thanking all the Members.