

Uday Mehta


GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND POLITICAL CULTURES

(Lun. Mar. Mer. 12.30-14.30 – A, via del Santo 28)  
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This course is about how postcolonial thought occasions the reconsideration of the Western tradition of political philosophy and the discovery of alternative pathways of modernization within it. Of central interest is the rethinking of the idea of social and political change together with the idea of the self-transformation of the individual. These two sides are reconsidered through the lens of Kant and Marx in dialogue with postcolonial thinkers, and Gandhi. The course is organized in two parts. The first part inquires into the meaning of history and social change through the confrontation of Chakrabarty and Marx. The second part inquires into self-transformation, or what Kant calls the “revolution inside,” by putting Kant and Gandhi in dialogue on autonomy and self-knowledge.

The course will be organized as a discussion seminar.

Textbooks and readings

- Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj and Other Writings*. --: Cambridge University Press, 2009. 
- Uday S. Mehta, “Gandhi On Democracy, Politics And The Ethics Of Everyday Life.” *Modern Intellectual History*, Vol. 7 (2010), pp. 355-371.. --: - -, --.
- Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” in *Toward Perpetual Peace and Other Writings on Politics, Peace and History*, pp. 17-23.. --: Yale University Press, 2006.
- Immanuel Kant, *The Conflict of the Faculties*, in *Toward Perpetual Peace and Other Writings on Politics, Peace and History*, pp. 150-164.. --: Yale University Press, 2006.
- Michel Foucault, *Foucault Reader*. --: Pantheon, 1984. *What is Enlightenment*
- Franz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*. --: Grove Press, 1983, --. *Introduction and chapter 1*
- Karl Marx, *Marx-Zasulich Correspondence*, in Teodor Shanin, *Late Marx and the Russian Road*, pp. 95-137. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1983.

- Walter Benjamin, *On the Concept of History and Paralipomena*, in *Selected Writings 1938-1940*, Vol. 4, pp. 389-411. Cambridge and London: Harvard University Press, 2003.