

## Subject overview

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The subject will look briefly at the nature of power and the concept of legitimacy (i.e., the legitimate exercise of power). It will then discuss Chinese, Indian, Islamic and Western ideas on power both in their classical form and in modern variations. It will then focus on how power is exercised through the media and through the use of language.

## Learning Outcomes

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The objectives are to give students an understanding of the different ways in which people, groups and institutions exercise power over others so that they may use these methods and know when others are exercising them.

By the completion of this subject, students will be able to:

- Identify both traditional and modern ideas on power
- Compare ideas of power and how it may legitimately be exercised in various traditions
- Recognize how power is exercised through and by the media
- Identify the various ways in which language use embodies power

## Assessment overview

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Class participation            | 10% of total assessment |
| • Assignment                     | 50% of total assessment |
| • Class Presentation             | 20% of total assessment |
| • Exam (3/6 questions in 1 hour) | 20% of total assessment |

## Subject modules

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- The nature of power
- Legitimacy
- The origins of the Western tradition
- The Contemporary Western scene
- The Chinese Tradition
- Chinese influence outside China
- The Indian Tradition
- India overseas
- The Islamic Tradition
- Discussion of the four traditions
- Power & Violence
- Communication & Power
- Language & Power
- Power in international relations

## Required readings

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- There is no set text. Students will read a variety of journal articles assigned by Academic Teaching Staff.

## Questions?

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If you have questions about any of the subject summaries, please contact us.