This course examines the challenges that contemporary India faces from a conflict studies perspective: conflicts on a local, national and international levels related especially to democracy, economy, culture and religion. In order to comprehend and analyze the conflicts better, the aforementioned four domains shall be expanded to include various sub topics as well as historical perspectives. Both the topics and methodology highlight the current social and political problems faced by ‘the world’s largest democracy’; problems such as still rampant poverty coupled with social discrimination; aggressiveness towards women despite general growth in education; divisive and communitarian policies in a well-functioning pluralistic set-up; etc. A significant effort shall be made in the course to identify the possible sources (moral, cultural, political, etc.) of these challenges to the future of democracy and pluralism; for India understands herself, and is viewed from outside as a thriving age-old civilization successfully but inexorably at a slow pace emerging as a powerful nation. Both the pace and success/failure of India shall hence constitute a reliable/critical model for conflict-ridden, multicultural and development-oriented nations world-wide.

To comprehend and analyze conflicts in a pluralistic, democratic set-up. To individuate problems specific to a non-Western society as it embarks on building/expanding an ambitious, open society. To highlight the potential of moral, cultural, political resources in transforming society, resolving conflict and building a strong nation.

Weekly readings; discussions. 1 Class presentation/Oral exam; 3 Research Papers. Due dates are to be found in the syllabus to be posted by the first week of January at https://uottawa.blackboard.com/ under the course code: ECS 5120-A /ECS 4130-A

Class presentation / Oral exam – 15% (20 minutes)
3 Research papers (each of10 pages or 4560 words) – 75%
Presence and participation – 10% (10 weeks)

A detailed syllabus with reading list will be posted by the first week of January at https://uottawa.blackboard.com/ under the course code. All required texts will be made available on reserve or for photocopy.