

POL-100: POLITICAL THEORY

(Contact Hours: 60, Credits: 4)

Course Objectives:

This course aims to introduce basic concepts, ideas and theories in Political Science. It will also examine the various perspectives, dimensions and relevance of political theory.

Learning Outcomes:

This course will enable students to understand the basic political theory concepts and engage them in critically analyzing the subject. It will also provide an opportunity for the students to familiarize themselves with contemporary interpretations of the theories and views of scholars for a deeper understanding of the subject.

Unit I: Nature, Scope and Significance of Political Theory.

Theories of the Origin of State: Social Contract, Evolutionary and Marxist.

Sovereignty: Nature, Characteristics, Monistic and Pluralistic theories.

Unit II: Rights: Natural, Legal and Marxist Theory of Rights.

Liberty: Negative and Positive.

Equality: Kinds of Equality, Relationship between Liberty and Equality.

Unit III: Law: Natural, Sociological and Marxist Theories of Law.
Justice: Natural, Distributive and Social Justice.
Political Obligation: Grounds of Political Obligation and Resistance.

Unit IV: Dimensions of Democracy: Social, Economic and Political;
Liberal and Marxist Perspectives.

Suggested Readings:

- Barker, E., *Principles of Social and Political Theory*, Calcutta, Oxford University Press, 1976.
- Barry, N.P., *Introduction to Modern Political Theory*, London, Macmillan, 1995.
- Bercht, A., *Political Theory: The Foundations of Twentieth Century Political Thought*, Bombay, The Times of India Press, 1965.
- Bhargava, Rajib and A. Acharya, *Political Theory: An Introduction*, Pearson, 2008
- Cunningham, F., *Theories of Democracy – A Critical Introduction*, London and New York, Routledge, 2002.
- Dahl, R., *A Preface to Democratic Theory*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1965.
- Engels F., *Origin of Family, Private Property and the State*, 1902 (English Edition)
- Dunn, J., *Modern Revolutions*, London, The Clarendon Press, 1989.
- Held, D., *Models of Democracy*, Cambridge, Polity Press, 1987.
- , *Political Theory Today*, Cambridge, Polity Press, 1991.
- Heywood, Andrew, *Political Theory: An Introduction*, New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2002.
- Johari, J. C., *Contemporary Political Theory*, New Delhi, Sterling, 2004.
- , *Principles of Modern Political Science*, New Delhi, Sterling, 2004.
- Kukathas, C and P. Pettit, *Rawls' A Theory of Justice and its Critics*, Cambridge, Polity Press, 1998.
- Macpherson, C.B., *Democratic Theory: Essays in Retrieval*, Oxford, The Clarendon Press, 1977.
- Macpherson, C.B., *The Real World of Democracy*, Oxford University Press, 1970.
- Milliband, R., *Marxism and Politics*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1977
- Poggi, G., *The State: Its Nature, Development and Prospects*, Cambridge, Polity Press, 1990.
- Ramaswamy, S., *Political Theory: Ideas and Concepts*, Delhi, Macmillan, 2002.
- Sartori, G., *Democratic Theory*, Oxford University Press, 1974.
- Singh, R., *Reason, Revolution and Political Theory*, New Delhi, People's Publishing House, 1997.
- Thakurdas, F., *Essays in Political Theory*, New Delhi, Gitanjali, 1992.
- Varma, S.P., *Modern Political Theory*, New Delhi, Vikas, 1993.
- Vincent Andrew, *The Nature of Political Theory*, OUP, 2007.
- Wasby, S., *Political Science: The Discipline and its Dimensions*, Calcutta, Scientific Book Agency, 1970.

(Semester - III)

Paper PSc.03 : INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

The paper focuses on the political processes and the actual functioning of the Indian political system with an emphasis on the role of social and economic processes in the functioning of the political system in India.

Course Content:

1. Nature of Indian State: Historical & Ideological basis.
2. Fundamental Rights, Duties and Directive Principles.
3. Federalism and Parliamentary Democracy: Union-State Relations, Structure and Working of Parliament, Judicial Review and Judicial Activism.
4. Politics of Land Reforms and Economic Liberalization.
5. Role of Political Parties and Pressure Groups in Electoral Politics.
6. Social Movements and Political Mobilization – Caste and Gender.

(Semester - V)

Paper PSc.05 : WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

This paper studies the classical tradition in political theory from Plato to Marx with a view to understand how the great thinkers explained and analyzed political events and problems of their times and prescribed solutions. The texts are to be interpreted both in their historical and philosophical perspectives to understand the universality of the enterprise of political theorizing.

Course Content:

Major Ideas, Theories and Contributions of the following Thinkers:

1. Greek Political Thought:
Plato –Justice, Ideal State and Communism.
Aristotle – State and Revolution, Slavery.
2. Machiavelli – Human Nature, State Craft. Morality and Politics.
3. Contractualists – Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau: State of Nature, Social Contract and Nature of State.
4. J.S. Mill: Liberty, Representative Government, Position of Women.
5. Hegel: Dialectics, State, Freedom.
6. Marx: Historical Materialism, State and Class Struggle.

(Semester - V)

Paper PScO.06.1 : MODERN INDIAN POLITICAL IDEAS

The paper seeks to highlight the contributions of Indian Political Thinkers during the phase of National Struggle for freedom and critically evaluate their ideas.

Course Content:

1. Impact of Colonialism and the Emergence of Social Reform Movement – Vivekananda and Ram Mohan Roy.
2. Moderate - Gokhale; Extremist - Tilak; Revolutionary - Bhagat Singh.
3. Mahatma Gandhi: Satyagraha and Non-Violence, Sarvodaya and Swaraj.
4. Religious and Secular Nationalism – M. A. Jinnah and Jawaharlal Nehru.
5. Caste and Representation – B. R. Ambedkar and R. M. Lohia.
6. Indian Socialism – Jawaharlal Nehru, M. N. Roy and Jayprakash Narain.