

The University of Burdwan



Syllabus for B.A.(Hons.)

Subject: Political Science

**Under new
National Education Policy,
2020**

w.e.f. 2023-2024

SEMESTER – I

MAJOR/DS COURSE (Core) WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT (4 credits)

- 1) **Ancient Greek Political Thought: Basic Features;**
Plato: Justice;
Aristotle: State;
- 2) **Medieval Political Thought: Main features;**
- 3) **Machiavelli and the Renaissance: Concept of Power and Secularization of Politics;**
- 4) **Hobbes: Sovereignty; Locke: Founder of Liberalism; Rousseau: General Will;**
- 5) **Hegel: State;**
- 6) **Marx and Engels: Dialectical and Historical Materialism;**
- 7) **J.S. Mill: Concept of Liberty.**

Suggested Readings

1. G. H. Sabine, *A History of Political Theory* (USA: Wadsworth Publishing Co Inc,)
2. A.K. Mukhopadhyay, *Western Political Thought : From Plato to Marx* (Kolkata: K.P. Bagchi)
3. S. Mukherjee and S. Ramaswamy, *A History of Political Thought*, (New Delhi: PHI)
4. Brian R. Nelson, *Western Political Thought: From Socrates to the Age of Ideology*, (Delhi: Pearson)
5. Shefali Jha, *Western Political Thought* (Delhi: Pearson)
6. Shobhonlal Duttagupta, *Pashyattya Rashtrabhabna*, Pashchimbanga Rajya Pustak Parshad (in Bengali)

MINOR COURSE (Core)
Western Political Thought
(Credits 4)

- 1) **Ancient Greek Political Thought: Basic Features;**
Plato: Justice;
Aristotle: State;
- 2) **Medieval Political Thought: Main features;**
- 3) **Machiavelli and the Renaissance: Concept of Power and Secularization of Politics;**
- 4) **Hobbes: Sovereignty; Locke: Founder of Liberalism; Rousseau: General Will;**
- 5) **Hegel: State;**
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**MULTIDISCIPLINARY COURSE/INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE
(MDS/IDS)**

Course-1

Introducing Political Science

Credit-3

1. **Political Science: Definition, Nature & Scope;**
2. **Different approaches to the study of Political Science:**
 - i) **Traditional Approach;**
 - ii) **Behavioural Approach;**
3. **Origin of the State:**
 - i) **Divine Origin theory;**
 - ii) **Theory of Force;**
 - iii) **Social Contract Theory;**
 - iv) **Evolutionary Theory.**
4. **Sovereignty: Monistic & Pluralist;**
5. **Right, Liberty & Equality: Meaning and Inter-relationship;**
6. **Theories of the State:**
 - i) **Idealist;**
 - ii) **Liberal**
 - iii) **Marxist**
 - iv) **Gandhian.**

Suggested Readings

1. R. Bhargava and A. Acharya eds. *Political Theory* (Delhi: Longman, 2008)
2. O. P. Gauba. *Introduction to Political Theory* (New Delhi: Macmillan, 2011)
3. J. C. Johari. *Contemporary Political Theory* (New Delhi: Advent Books)
4. S. Ramaswamy. *Political Theory: Ideas and Concept* (New Delhi: Macmillan)
5. A. Roy and M. Bhattacharya. *Political Theory: Ideas and Institutions* (Kolkata: World Press)
6. S.P. Verma. *Modern Political Theory* (New Delhi: Vikash)
- 7) Shobhanlal Duttagupta, *Marxiyo Samajtattva, Pashcyattya Rashtrabhabna, Pashchimbanga Rajya Pustak Parshad* (in Bengali)

Skill Enhancement Course (SEC)
HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION
(3 Credits)

1. **Meaning of Human Rights; Evolution of the concept of Human Rights;**
2. **Indian Constitution and the protection of Human Rights;**
3. **National Human Rights Commission: Composition and Functions;**
4. **Human Rights Movements in India: Basic Features;**
5. **Human Rights, Terrorism and Counter-terrorism: Interrelationships**

SUGGESTED READINGS

1. Baxi, Upendra, The Future of Human Rights (New Delhi: Oxford)
2. Priyam, Menon and Banerjee, Human Rights, Gender and the Environment (New Delhi: Pearson)
3. Donnely, Jack, Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice (CornellUniversity Press)
4. Clapham, Andrew, Human Rights: A very short introduction (Oxford)
5. Narayan, S, Human Rights Dynamics in India(Kalpaz Publications)

SEMESTER-2

MAJOR/DS COURSE (Core)
Political Theory
(Credit: 4)

1. **The meaning of Politics and Political Theory; Meaning and significance of Political Theory;**
2. **Different Approaches:**
 - (a) **Traditional**
 - (b) **Behavioural and Post-Behavioural**
 - (c) **Marxist;**
3. **The Concept of Sovereignty:**
 - (a) **Monistic**
 - (b) **Pluralist**

(c) Popular;

4. **Liberty and Equality: Meaning and their Inter-relationship;**

5. **Theory of Justice: Rawls;**

6. **Ideology – Meaning and Variants:**

(a) Anarchism

(b) Liberalism and Neo-Liberalism

(c) Fascism;

7. **Theories of State:** (a) Idealist

(b) Liberal

(c) Marxist

(d) Gandhian.

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1) R. Bhargava and A. Acharya eds. *Political Theory* (Delhi : Longman, 2008)

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4) S. Ramaswamy. *Political Theory: Ideas and Concept* (New Delhi : Macmillan)

5) A. Roy and M. Bhattacharya. *Political Theory: Ideas and Institutions* (Kolkata: World Press)

6) S.P. Verma. *Modern Political Theory* (New Delhi: Vikash)

MINOR COURSE
Course-2
Indian Government & Politics
Credit-4

1. The meaning of Politics and Political Theory; Meaning and significance of Political Theory;

2. Different Approaches:

(a) Traditional

(b) Behavioural and Post-Behavioural

(c) Marxist;

3. The Concept of Sovereignty:

(a) Monistic

(b) Pluralist

(c) Popular;

4. **Liberty and Equality: Meaning and their Inter-relationship;**

5. **Theory of Justice: Rawls;**

6. **Ideology – Meaning and Variants:**

(a) Anarchism

(b) Liberalism and Neo-Liberalism

(c) Fascism;

7. **Theories of State:** (a) Idealist

(b) Liberal

(c) Marxist

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8) O. P. Gauba. *Introduction to Political Theory* (New Delhi : Macmillan, 2011)

9) J. C. Johari. *Contemporary Political Theory* (New Delhi : Advent Books)

10) S. Ramaswamy. *Political Theory: Ideas and Concept* (New Delhi : Macmillan)

11) A. Roy and M. Bhattacharya. *Political Theory: Ideas and Institutions* (Kolkata: World Press)

12) S.P. Verma. *Modern Political Theory* (New Delhi: Vikash)

MULTIDISCIPLINARY COURSE/ INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE

(MDS/IDS)

Course-1

Introducing Indian Constitution

(Credit: 3)

1. **Salient Features of the Indian Constitution; Preamble**
2. **(a) Fundamental Rights and Duties (b) Directive Principles of State Policy**
3. **Nature of Indian Federalism;**
4. **Union Legislature: Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha – Organization, Functions; the Speaker;**
5. **Union & State Executive: President and Prime Minister:**

Power and functions; Governor and Chief Minister: Power and function

6. Judiciary: Supreme Court and High Courts – Composition and Functions;

7. Party System in India: Features and Trends; Coalition Government

Suggested Readings:

1. Basu, D. D, *Introduction to the Constitution of India* (Nagpur: Lexis Nexis)
2. Kashyap, S. C., *Our Constitution* (New Delhi: National Book Trust)
3. Kashyap, S.C., *Our Political System* (New Delhi: National Book Trust)
4. Hiregowder, G. C. et al., *The Indian Constitution: An Introduction*, (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan)
5. Johari, J. C., *Indian Government and Politics*, Vol. 1 and 2 (New Delhi: Vikash Publication)
6. Khosla, Madhab, *The Indian Constitution* (New Delhi: Oxford)

**Skill Enhancement Course (SEC)
LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT
(Credit- 3)**

1. Power and functions of people’s representatives at different tiers of governance – Members of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies.

2. Supporting the legislative process – Law-making procedure, Role of Committees.

3. An overview of Budget Process; Role of Parliament in reviewing the Union Budget.

4. Ministry of Home and External Affairs: Main functions.

5. NITI Ayog: Composition & Functions.

Suggested Readings:

1. Madhavan, M.R. & N. Wahi *Financing of Election Campaigns* PRS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delh, 2008. Available at: http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/conference/Campaign_finance_brief.pdf

2. Kalra, H. Public Engagement with the Legislative Process PRS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, 2011. Available at:
[http://www.prsindia.org/administrator/uploads/media/Conference%202011/Public%20Engagement% 20with%20the%20Legislative%20Process.pdf](http://www.prsindia.org/administrator/uploads/media/Conference%202011/Public%20Engagement%20with%20the%20Legislative%20Process.pdf)
3. Government of India (Lok Sabha Secretariat) Parliamentary Procedures (Abstract Series), 2009. Available at:
<http://164.100.47.132/LssNew/abstract/index.aspx>
4. Government of India, (Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs) Legislation, Parliamentary Procedure, 2009.
Available at: http://mpa.nic.in/Manual/Manual_English/Chapter/chapter-09.htm
Government of India, (Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs) Subordinate Legislation, Parliamentary Procedure, 2009. Available at:
http://mpa.nic.in/Manual/Manual_English/Chapter/chapter-11.htm
5. Mathur K. Chandrakanta, Legislative Support, Shivalik Prakashan, New Delhi
6. Radha Kumari *et. al.* A Primer on Legislative Support, Adroit Publishers, 2018.