

University of North Bengal
Syllabi of Political Science for FYUGP
(as per the New Curriculum & Credit Framework 2024-25)

SEMESTER I

Paper Title	Understanding Political Theory
Paper Code	POLSMAJ101
Nature of Paper	Major P1
Total Credits	4

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- This course is designed to familiarize the learners with the basic ideas, concepts, theories and issues in Political Theory.
- This course aims to introduce learners to the key aspects of the conceptual analysis in political theory and the debates surrounding these concepts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After completion, a learner is expected to:

- Acquire domain knowledge on the discipline.
- Develop a general understanding of Political Science as a distinct subject of study and its inter-disciplinary character as well.

SYLLABUS:

Unit I: Introduction to Political Theory

- a. Political Theory: Definitions, Nature, Scope and Evolution; Distinction between Political Theory and Political Ideology, Political Philosophy & Political Thought;
- b. Approaches to Political Theory: Normative, Historical, Marxist, Empirical;
- c. Behaviouralism and Post-Behaviouralism;
- d. Decline & Resurgence of Political Theory with special reference to the contributions of David Easton, Alfred Cobban, Dante Germino, Leo Strauss & Michael Oakshott.

Unit-II: State: Origin and Nature

- a. Meaning and Elements of State: Difference between State, Nation, and Society;
- b. Theories of Origin of State: Historical and Social Contract;
- c. Theories of Nature of State: Idealist, Liberal and Marxist;
- d. Sovereignty: Monistic and Pluralistic theory; changing concept of sovereignty in the context of Globalization.

Unit-III: Key concepts in Political Theory

- a. Equality: Definitions and Dimensions;
- b. Liberty: Definitions and Classifications: Positive and Negative Liberty;
- c. Justice: Definitions; Procedural and Distributive Justice;
- d. Interrelationship between Equality, Liberty and Justice.

Unit-IV: Issues in Political Theory

- a. Liberalism: Evolution and Characteristics;
- b. Socialism: Evolution and Characteristics;
- c. Nationalism: Meaning and Characteristics;
- d. Multiculturalism: Meaning and Characteristics.

Suggested Reading List:

1. Alan Ryan, (1993) 'Liberalism' in R. Goodin & P. Petit (eds) *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*, Oxford: Blackwell.
2. Anthony Arblaster, (1984) *The Rise and Decline of Western Liberalism*, Oxford: Blackwell.
3. Arora, N. D. (2006) *Theory of State: Plato to Marx*, Delhi: K K Publications.
4. Ashok Acharya, (2008) 'Liberalism' in Rajeev Bhargava & Ashok Acharya, (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*, New Delhi: Pearson Longman.
5. Barker, Ernest (1951) *Principles of Social and Political Theory*, New York, Oxford University Press.
6. Barrow, Clyde W. (1993), *Critical Theories of the State: Marxist, Neo-Marxist, Post-Marxist*, London: The University of Wisconsin Press.
7. Brown, H. P (1991). *Egalitarianism and the Generation of Inequality*. Oxford: Clarendon.
8. Bryan S Turner (1986), *Equality*, London, Routledge.
9. Das Gesper & Irene Staveren, 'Development as Freedom and as What Else?', *Feminist Economics* Vol. IX, No. II-III, pp. 137-61.
10. Dworkin, Ronald (2000), *Sovereign Virtue: The Theory and Practice of Equality*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.
11. Habermas and Sweezy (1969), *Introduction to Socialism*, New Delhi. Sage.
12. Heywood, Andrew (1997), *Politics*, London: Palgrave Macmillan.
13. Heywood, Andrew (2012), *Political Theory: An Introduction*, Palgrave Publication.
14. Heywood, Andrew (2007), *Political Ideologies: An Introduction*, New York: Palgrave Publication.
15. Judith Heyer and Niraja Gopal Jayal (2009), "The Challenge of Positive Discrimination in India", Crise Working Paper No. 55, Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, Mansfield Road, OX1 3TB, UK.
16. Kekes, J., (2003), *The illusions of Egalitarianism*, Ithaca/London: Cornell University Press.
17. Kymlicka, Will, (2002), *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction*, USA, Oxford University Press.
18. Laski, Harold J (1925), *A Grammar of Politics*, London, George Allen & Unwin.
19. Maureem Ramsay (2004) *What's wrong with Liberalism: A Radical Critique of Liberal Political Philosophy*, London: Continuum.
20. Roshvald, Mordecai (2000), *Liberty: Its Meaning and Scope*, Westport: Praeger Publishers Inc.
21. Sen, A., (2000), *Development as Freedom*, New York: Anchor Books.
22. Shorten, Andrew (2016), *Contemporary Political Theory*. London: Palgrave.
23. Swift, Adam (2007) *Political Philosophy: A Beginners' Guide for Students and Politicians* USA, Polity Press.
24. Temkin, L. S. (2009). "Illuminating Egalitarianism", In T. Christiano & J. Christman (Eds.), *Contemporary Debates in Political Philosophy*, Malden: Blackwell.
25. Vincent, Andrew (1991), *Theories of the State*, London: Wiley Blackwell.

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SEMESTER I

Paper Title	Introduction to the Constitution of India
Paper Code	POLSMAJ102
Nature of Paper	Major P2
Total Credits	4

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- This course intends to introduce the learners to the constitution making process and the subject matter of the Constitution of India.
- The objective of this course is to familiarize the learners with the constitutional structure, institutions and their functions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After completion, a learner is expected to:

- Be acquainted with the constitution making process and the subject matter of the Constitution of India.
- Develop an understanding of the constitutional structure, institutions and their functions in India.

Unit I: Framing of the Constitution of India:

- a. Historical background: Government of India Act of 1909, 1919, 1935, 1947;
- b. Constituent Assembly: Composition, Objectives and Functions;
- c. Philosophy of the Indian Constitution: The Preamble; Salient features of the Constitution of India.

Unit II: Rights and Duties of the Indian Citizens:

- a. Citizenship: Constitutional provisions;
- b. Fundamental Rights;
- c. Fundamental Duties;
- d. Directive Principles of State Policy.

Unit III: Union Government: Structures and Functions:

- a. Legislature: Parliament – Composition and Functions; Speaker;
- b. Executive: President, Vice-President, Prime Minister and Council of Ministers;
- c. Indian Judiciary: Supreme Court and High Court - Composition and Jurisdiction.

Unit IV: State Government: Structures and Functions:

- a. Legislature: Legislative Assembly- Composition and Functions;
- b. Executive: Governor, Chief Minister and Council of Ministers;
- c. Local Self-Government: Urban & Rural.

Suggested Reading List:

1. Agrawal, Arun. (2005). "The Indian Parliament" in Devesh Kapur and Pratap Bhanu Mehta (ed.) *Public Institutions in India: Performance and Design*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 77-104.
2. Austin, Granville. (1966). *The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-25.
3. Austin, Granville. (1999). *Working a Democratic Constitution: The Indian Experience*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
4. Austin, Granville. (2000), "The Supreme Court and the Struggle for custody of the constitution" in B.N.Kirpal et al. *Supreme but not Infallible: Essays in Honour of the Supreme Court of India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi.
5. Basu, D. D., (2001), *Introduction to Constitution of India*, New Delhi: Wadhwa Publishers, 2001.
6. Baxi, Upendra(2010) 'The Judiciary as a Resource for Indian Democracy', Seminar, Issue 615, pp. 61-67.
7. Bhargava, Rajeev. (2008). *Politics and Ethics of the Indian Constitution*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
8. Bhatia, Gautam. (2019). *The Transformative Constitution: a radical biography in nine acts*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
9. Chakravarty, B. & Pandey, K. P. (2006) *Indian Government and Politics*, New Delhi: Sage.
10. Chaube, S. (2009) *The Making and Working of the Indian Constitution*, Delhi: National Book Trust.
11. Chaube, Shibani Kinkar. (2000). *Constituent assembly of India: springboard of revolution*, New Delhi: Manohar Publishers & Distributors.
12. Choudhry, Sujit, Madhav Khosla & Pratap Bhanu Mehta. (2016). *The Oxford Handbook of the Indian Constitution*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
13. Fadia, B. L., (2008). *Indian Government and Politics*, Agra: SahityaBhawan.
14. Hasan, Zoya, Eswaran Sridharan, and R. Sudarshan. (2004). *India's Living Constitution: Ideas, Practices, Controversies*, Delhi: Permanent Black.
15. Jayal, Niraja Gopal and Pratap Bhanu Mehta (eds.). *The Oxford Companion to Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
16. Jones, W.H. Morris. (1957), *Parliament in India*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
17. Khare, H. (2003) 'Prime Minister and the Parliament: Redefining Accountability in the Age of Coalition Government', in A. Mehra and G. Kueck (eds.) *The Indian Parliament: A Comparative Perspective*, New Delhi: Konark, pp. 350-368.
18. Khosla, Madhav. 2020. *India's Founding Moment: The Constitution of a Most Surprising Democracy*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.
19. Manor, James (1994) 'The Prime Minister and the President', in B. Dua and J. Manor (eds.) *Nehru to the Nineties: The Changing Office of the Prime Minister in India*, Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, pp. 20-47.
20. Manor, James (2005) 'The Presidency', in D. Kapur and P. Mehta P. (eds.) *Public Institutions in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp.105-127.

21. Mehra, Ajay K. and G.W. Kueck, (ed.) *The Indian Parliament: A Comparative Perspective*, New Delhi: Konark.
22. Mehta. Pratap Bhanu(2007). "India's Unlikely Democracy: The Rise of Judicial Sovereignty". *The Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 18 (2). April.
23. Narang, A. S. (2000) *Indian Government and Politics*, New Delhi: Gitanjali Publications.
24. Pai, Sudha, and Avinash Kumar (2014), *The Indian Parliament: A Critical Appraisal*, Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan.
25. Pylee, M V. 1(967). *Constitutional History of India*, Bombay: Asia Publishing House.
26. Ramachandran, R. (2006) 'The Supreme Court and the Basic Structure Doctrine' in B. Kirpal et.al (eds.) *Supreme but not Infallible: Essays in Honour of the Supreme Court of India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 107-133.
27. Rudolph L. and S. Rudolph. (2008) 'Judicial Review Versus Parliamentary Sovereignty', in *Explaining Indian Institutions: A Fifty Year Perspective, 1956-2006: Volume 2: The Realm of Institutions: State Formation and Institutional Change*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 183-210.
28. Shankar, B. L., and Valerian Rodrigues. (2010). *The Indian Parliament: A Democracy at work*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
29. Shankar, Shylashri. (2009). *Scaling Justice: India's Supreme Court, Anti-Terror Laws, and Social Rights*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
30. Singh M. P. and Rekha Saxena. (2008). *Indian Politics, Contemporary Issues and Concerns*, PHI Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi.
31. Singh, M.P. & Saxena, R. (2008) *Indian Politics: Contemporary Issues and Concerns*. New Delhi: PHI Learning.
32. *The Constitution of India: Bare Act with Short Notes*, (2011) New Delhi: Universal, pp. 4-16.
33. Verma, Rahul and Vikas Tripathi. (2013). "Making Sense of the House: Explaining the Decline of the Indian Parliament amidst Democratization", *Studies in Indian Politics*, 1(2), pp.153-177.