

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 Science
Paper Code	POLSMIN101
Nature of Paper	Minor P1
Total Credits	4

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- This course aims to impart knowledge about the fundamentals of Political Science.
- This course is designed to familiarize the learners with the basic ideas, concepts, approaches, theories and issues in Political Science.

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: Political Science and Political Theory

- a. Meaning, Nature and Scope of Political Science;
- b. Approaches: Traditional, Philosophical, Historical and Marxist;
- c. Modern Approaches: Behaviouralism and Post-Behaviouralism;
- d. Relationship of Political Science with History, Economics, and Sociology.

Unit-II: State: Origin and Nature

- a. Definition and Elements of State; Difference between State, Society, and Association;
- b. Theories of Origin of State: Historical and Social Contract;
- c. Theories of Nature of State: Liberal and Marxist;
- d. Sovereignty: Monistic and Pluralistic theory.

Unit-III: Key concepts in Political Science

- a. Equality: Definitions and Dimensions;
- b. Liberty: Definitions; Positive and Negative Liberty;
- c. Justice: Definitions; Liberal and Marxist;
- d. Interrelationship between Liberty and Equality.

Unit-IV: Issues in Political Science

- a. Liberalism: Definition and Features;
- b. Nationalism: Definition and Features;
- c. Multiculturalism: Definition and Features.

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.