

Core I

Semester-I

Fundamentals of Political Science

Course Objectives

This course will familiarize students with the basic normative concepts in political theory and encourage them to understand how these concepts manifest in social practices. The course will also help students learn how we make use of these concepts in organizing our social living. The main objective is to project the plural, interdisciplinary orientation of political theory and to emphasise its deep engagement with the political process.

Expected Learning Outcomes

The course would provide students with a rudimentary understanding of political concepts, theories, and their application in contemporary society and their interplay with societal and economic factors. The unit-wise outcomes are given below.

Unit-I: Upon completion of this Unit, students will have acquired a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of politics, its theoretical underpinnings across disciplines, and its intricate interplay with societal and economic spheres.

Unit-II: After completing this Unit, student's understanding on the state as a political entity will be deepened and students would be able to critically examine its relationship with sovereignty, governing structures, and the multifaceted challenges posed by globalization.

Unit-III: Upon completion of Unit III, students will be able to critically analyse and synthesize the intricate concepts of power, authority, and legitimacy, as well as the interrelated notions of rights, freedoms, equality, and justice, thereby enabling them to comprehend the theoretical underpinnings that shape socio political constructs and inform discourse on contemporary issues.

Unit-IV: Upon completion of this Unit, students would have developed a nuanced and multidimensional understanding of democracy along with its models, and the critical roles played by pluralism and diversity in shaping democratic ideals, practices, and discourse. This will deepen democratic values among students.

Unit-I: Introduction

- a) What is Political?
- b) Political Philosophy, Political Theory, Political Science
- c) Politics and Society, Politics and Economy

Unit-II: State

- a) State: Meaning, Origin and Development
- b) State and Sovereignty
- c) State and Government
- d) State and Globalization

Unit-III: Concepts

- a) Power, Authority, and Legitimacy
- b) Rights and Freedom
- c) Equality and Justice

Unit-IV: Democracy

- a) Meaning of Democracy
- b) Models of Democracy: Representative, Participatory, Deliberative
- c) Pluralism, Diversity, and Democracy

Essential Readings:

1. Bhargava, R. (2008). 'What is Political Theory', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds), *Political Theory: An Introduction*. Pearson Longman. pp. 2-16
2. Heywood, A. (2022). *Political Theory: An Introduction*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
3. McKinnon, C. (2019). *Introduction: Issues in Political Theory*. Oxford University Press.
4. Menon, K. (2008). 'Justice', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds), *Political Theory: An Introduction*. Pearson Longman. pp. 74-86.
5. Srinivasan, J. (2008). 'Democracy', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds), *Political Theory: An Introduction*. Pearson Longman. pp. 106-128.
6. Talukdar, P.S. (2008) 'Rights', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds), *Political Theory: An Introduction*. Pearson Longman. pp. 88-104.
7. Vinod, M. J. and Deshpande Meena. (2013). *Contemporary Political Theory*. PHI Learning Pvt Ltd, Delhi

Additional Readings:

- ✓ Bhargava, R. (2008). 'Why do we need Political Theory', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds), *Political Theory: An Introduction*. Pearson Longman, pp. 17-36
- ✓ Dahl, R. A. (2000). *On Democracy*. Yale University Press.
- ✓ Gauba, O. P. (2023). *An Introduction to Political Theory*. National Publication.
- ✓ Mookherjee, M. (2008) 'Multiculturalism', in McKinnon, C. (ed), *Issues in Political Theory*. Oxford University Press. pp. 218-240.
- ✓ Seglow, J. (2003) 'Multiculturalism', in Bellamy, Richard and Mason, Andrew (eds), *Political Concepts*. Manchester University Press. pp. 156-168.
- ✓ Wolf, J. (2021) 'Social Justice', in McKinnon, C. (ed). *Issues in Political Theory*. Oxford University Press. pp. 172-193.

Internet Resources:

The internet resources include online articles and e-contents published on websites, blogs, e-Newspaper, online magazines, scholarly journals, digital repositories, and Audio- Visual content.

1. CEC. (2015). *What is Political Theory?*. YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdTNlx52Weg>
2. Jha, Mithilesh Kumar. (2018). *Introduction to Political Theory*. NPTEL.
<https://archive.nptel.ac.in/courses/109/103/109103141/>
3. Basu, Sibaji Pratim. (2020). *MOOC on Introduction to Political Theory*. SWAYAM.
https://onlinecourses.SWAYAM2.ac.in/cec20_hs28/preview

Activities to do:

1. Students can participate in a debate on a philosophical or theoretical concept related to politics, such as the nature of power, the principles of equality and justice, which will encourage critical thinking, argumentation skills, and the ability to analyze complex concepts from multiple perspectives.
2. Organize a simulation exercise where students assume different roles in a hypothetical political system or scenario and could simulate the functioning of a democratic government, with students taking on roles like legislators, activists, lobbyists, or

members of the media. This activity will allow students to experience and understand the dynamics of political processes and decision-making.

3. Students can conduct literature review, prepare a draft and analyse primary sources on any topic mentioned in this course.