

MAJOR / MINOR COURSE
SEMESTER 1st

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Subject: Political Science

Title: **Introduction to Political Theory**
Credit: Theory 04; Tutorial: 02

Code: BPS22C101
Contact Hours: 64 (Th) + 32(Tu)

***Course Description:** The course is introductory in nature and shall help students to understand the basic concepts in Political Theory. The conceptual understanding will smoothen their path towards the more advanced theoretical debates in Political Theory and Political Philosophy. Furthermore, the Fieldwork/Internship offers an opportunity to understand the working and nature of political institutions and processes.*

Learning Outcome:

1. To introduce students to basic conceptual categories
2. To make them familiar with the advanced theoretical debate in Political Theory & Political Philosophy
3. To relate concepts to daily political practice
4. To bridge gap between theory and practice of Political Science
5. To enhance skill and job potential of students.

Lectures: 04 Credits

Unit I. Introduction

1. Understanding politics
2. Perspectives on politics: Liberal, Marxist and Communitarian
3. Normative and Scientific Debates in politics
4. Contemporary political ideologies: Social Constructivism, Post Modernism, Ecologism

Unit II. Political Theory and State

1. What is Political Theory? Why do we need it?
2. State: Theories of its Origin
3. Distinction between State, Civil Society and Nation
4. Perspectives on State: Liberal, Marxist and Feminist

Unit III. Concepts-I

1. Liberty: Negative vs Positive
2. Equality: Liberal, Socialists, Libertarian
3. Justice: Procedural and Distributive
4. Citizenship: Liberal and Communitarian theories

Unit IV. Concepts-II

1. Democracy: Procedural and Substantive
2. Rights: Universalism and particularism
3. Obligations: Grounds and Limitations
4. Power and Legitimacy: Gramsci and Althusser

Tutorials: 2 Credits (Field study)

Unit V. Working of Democracy at Local Levels (Panchayat/Municipality)

a. Working of Local-self Government (Field Study Report)

b. Internship with Local Body Representatives

Unit VI. Affirmative Action and Marginalized Communities

a. Impact Assessment of Affirmative action on selected communities (Field study)

Suggested Readings'

1. O.P.Gauba (2002), An Introduction to Political Theory, New Delhi, Macmillan..
2. Andrew Heywood (2002), Political Theory, New Delhi, Palgrave.
3. Bhargava, R. (2008) 'What is Political Theory', in Bhargava, R and Acharya, A. (eds.) Political Theory: An Introduction. New Delhi: Pearson.
4. 'Colin Farrelly(2003), 'An Introduction to Contemporary Political Theory'. Sage Publication.
5. Norman Berry (2000), An Introduction to Modern Political Theory'. Macmillan Education, UK.
6. Longman, Shorten, A. (2008) 'Nation and State', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) Issues in Political Theory, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 33-55.
7. Sethi, A. (2008) 'Freedom of Speech and the Question of Censorship', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) Political Theory: An Introduction. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 308-319.
8. Acharya, A. (2008) 'Affirmative Action', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) Political Theory: An Introduction. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 298-307.
9. Iain McLean & Alistair McMillan, Oxford Dictionary of Politics & International Relations, Oxford, 2009.
10. Andrew Hacker, Political Theory: Philosophy, Ideology & Science, Surjeet Publication (Indian Edition), 2006.
11. Neera Chandhoke, State & Civil Society, Sage, 1995.
12. Neera Chandhoke, Beyond Secularism: The Rights of Religious Minorities, Oxford, 1999.
13. Kenneth Minogue, Politics: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford, 2000.
14. David Beetham, The Legitimation of Power: Issues in Political Theory, Macmillan, 1991.