

**Four Year Undergraduate Programme**  
**Subject: Political Science**

| <b>Semester</b>                | <b>Paper</b>  |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Semester</b> | POL 01-01: Introduction to Political Theory (Core)  |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester</b> | POL 02-01: Indian Govt. & Politics (Core)   |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Semester</b> | POL 03-01: Perspectives on Public Administration (Core)   |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Semester</b> | POL 04-01: Understanding International Relations (Compulsory)<br>POL 04-02: Political Theory: Concepts and Debates (Compulsory)<br>POL 04-03: Political Processes in India (Compulsory)<br>POL 04-04: Public Policy and Administration in India (Compulsory)  |
| <b>5<sup>th</sup> Semester</b> | POL 05-01: Western Political Philosophy (Compulsory)<br>POL 05-02: Indian Political Thought (Compulsory)<br>POL 05-03a: United Nations and Global Conflict (Optional)<br>POL 05-03b: Optional Comparative Government and Politics (Optional)<br>POL 05-04a: Introduction to India's Foreign Policy (Optional)<br>POL 05-04b: Understanding South Asia (Optional)          |
| <b>6<sup>th</sup> Semester</b> | POL 06-01: Human Rights: Traditions and Debates (Compulsory)<br>POL 06-02: Feminism: Theory and Practice (Compulsory)<br>POL 06-03a: Politics in Northeast India (Optional)<br>POL 06-03b: Conflict and Peace Building (Optional)<br>POL 06-04a: Rural Local Governance: Theory & Practice (Optional)<br>POL 06-04b: Urban Local Governance: Theory & Practice (Optional) |

## **Four Year Undergraduate Programme**

**Subject: Political Science**

**Semester: 1<sup>st</sup> Semester**

**Course Name: POL 01-01: Introduction to Political Theory (Core)**

**Existing Base Syllabus:**

**Course Level: 100**

**Theory Credit: 60**

**Practical Credit: 0**

**No. of Required Classes: 60**

**No. of Contact Classes: 60**

**No. of Non-Contact Classes: 0**

**Particulars of Course Designer:**

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**Course Objectives:**

- This course aims to introduce the students to the idea of political theory, its history and approaches, and an assessment of its critical and contemporary trends.
- It is also designed to introduce the basic concepts of political theory.
- The course also attempts reconcile political theory and practice through reflections on the ideas and practices related to democracy.

**Course Outcomes:**

- After completing the course students will be better equipped to understand the key concepts in political theory and various related conceptual categories.
- They will also be in a better position to engage in application of concepts and understand the limitations.

- It will also help in developing critical thinking regarding the functioning of the political system in relation to the context the students are situated in.
- The foundation for understanding the contemporary political developments would also be laid down by the course.

### **Unit I: Understanding Political Theory**

- a. What is Politics?
- b. What is Political Theory?
- c. Relevance of political theory

### **Unit II: Approaches and Contemporary Perspectives on Political Theory**

- a. Liberal
- b. Marxist
- c. Feminist

### **Unit III: Concepts in Political Theory**

- a. State
- b. Rights
- c. Liberty
- d. Equality
- e. Justice

### **Unit IV: Understanding Democracy**

- a. Concept of Democracy
- b. Types of democracy
- c. Critique of democracy

## Readings List:

### Unit-I

Bellamy, R. (1993) 'Introduction: The Demise and Rise of Political Theory', in Bellamy, R. (ed.) *Theories and Concepts of Politics*. New York: Manchester University Press, pp. 1-14.

Bhargava, R. (2008) 'What is Political Theory', in Bhargava, R and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 2-16.

Bhargava, R, 'Why Do We Need Political Theory', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 17-36.

Mukherjee, S. and Ramaswami, S. (1999). What is Political Theory in Mukherjee, S. and Ramaswami, S. A History of Political Thought: Plato to Marx. New Delhi, Prentice Hall of India Pvt. Ltd. Pp. 1-8

Mukhopadhyay, A.K. (2019), *An Introduction to Political Theory*, New Delhi: Sage Publications

Sabine, George H. (1939) What is A Political Theory? in the Journal of Politics, Vol. 1, No 1. Pp. 1-16

### Unit-II

Asirvatham, E & K.K. Misra (1998), *Political Theory*, Upper India Publishing, pp. 20-39.

Callinicos, A. (2004) "Marxism and Politics" in Leftwich, A. (ed.) *What is Politics?* Cambridge, Polity Press, pp.53-65

Corrin, Chris(1999), *Feminist perspectives on Politics*, Routledge, London and New York, pp. 1-18.

Gauga, O.P (2009), *An Introduction to Political Theory*, Macmillan Publishers India Ltd, pp. 80-93.

Glaser, D. (1995) 'Normative Theory', in Marsh, D. and Stoker, G. (eds.) *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. London: Macmillan, pp. 21-40.

Menon, N. (2008) 'Gender', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 224-235.

Sanders, D. (1995) 'Behavioral Analysis', in Marsh, D. and Stoker, G. (eds.) *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. London: Macmillan, pp. 58-75.



Squires, J. (2004) 'Politics Beyond Boundaries: A Feminist Perspective' in Leftwich, A. (ed.) *What is Politics?* Cambridge, Polity Press, pp. 119-134

### **Unit-III**

Acharya, A. (2008) 'Equality', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 58-73.

Das, S. (2008) 'State', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 170-187.

Menon, K. (2008) 'Justice', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 74-82.

Shorten, A. (2008) 'Nation and State', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 33-55.

Sriranjani, V. (2008) 'Liberty', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 40-57.

Talukdar, P.S. (2008) 'Rights', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 88-105.

Talukdar, P.S. (2008) 'Rights', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 88-105.

### **Unit-IV**

Acharya, A. (2008) 'Affirmative Action', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 298-307.

Arblaster, A. (1994) *Democracy*. (2nd Edition). Buckingham: Open University Press.

Christiano, Thomas. (2008) 'Democracy', in McKinnon, Catriona. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 80-96.

Sen, A. (2003) 'Freedom Favours Development,' in Dahl, R., Shapiro, I. and Cheibub, A. J. (eds.)

*The Democracy Sourcebook*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, pp. 444-446.

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.

Srinivasan, J. (2008) 'Democracy', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 106-128.