

University of North Bengal
Syllabi of Political Science at FYUP
(as per the New Curriculum & Credit Framework 2022)

SEMESTER I

Paper Title	Understanding Political Theory
Paper Code	UPLSMAJ11001
Nature of Paper	Major
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.