SYLLABUS FOR M.A.IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
Under NEP with Semester System

Subject: Political Science
(Post Graduate)

(First Semester only)

COOCHBEHAR
PANCHANAN BARMA
UNIVERSITY

2026

COOCHBEHAR PANCHANAN BARMA UNIVERSITY
Panchanan Nagar, Vivekananda Street,
Cooch Behar - 736101,
West Bengal, India

27/10/2026

SYLLABUS IN DETAILS

(FIRST YEAR)

First Semester

Course	Description	Marks				Credit
		ESE	CE	A	Total	
CC-1	Basic Concepts in Political Science	75	20	5	100	5
CC-2	Indian Political thought	75	20	5	100	5
CC-3	Western Political Thought	75	20	5	100	5
Discipline Centric Elective (DCE)	Indian Politics: Governance and Institutions / State Politics India /Gandhian Studies	75	20	5	100	5
Total		300	80	20	400	20

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First Semester

Paper Code- CC-1

Basic Concepts in Political Science

Credit: 5

Course Outline:

The course aims at introducing students to the key concepts which are the building blocks of political analysis. Each concept will be studied in terms of the main debates over its nature and scope in the discipline and its relationship with other concepts. After dong this course, the student will be able to discern the conceptual debates which underlie political phenomena.

Unit-I
Politics and the Political - Conflict, Consensus, Class, Patriarchy, Public and the Private Power – Three Dimensional View of Power, Power to and Power over, Influence, Exploitation, Hegemony, Power/Knowledge.

Unit-II
Empowerment-The Concept, Dimensions of Empowerment, Types of Empowerment, Individual and Group Empowerment.

Unit-III
State- Political Authority and Political Obligation, Modern State, Theories of the state, Governmentality, State-Society relationship
Civil Society- Historical evolution of the concept, Civil Society as market, public sphere, civic virtue; associational life, State/ civil society, relationship

Unit IV Democracy- Who should rule and why? Liberal democracy and its critics, Representation and Participation
Liberty – Positive and Negative models, Civil and Political liberty, Freedom of expression, Alienation, Social conditioning

Unit-V Equality and Justice – Why equality; Equality of What/ Distributive justice: Universality and difference,

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Rights- Natural, legal rights, human rights; Three generations of rights, Individual and group rights

Suggested Readings: -

1. Andrew Heywood, Political Theory, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004 (Third Edition)
2. Andrew Heywood, Politics, Palgrave Macmillan, 2013 (Fourth Edition)
3. Rajeev Bhargava and Ashok Acharya (ed)Political Theory: An Introduction , Pearson Education, 2008
4. Andrew Vincent, Modern Political Ideologies, Wiley-Blackwell, 2010 (Third Edition)
5. Will Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy, OUP, 2002 (Second Edition)
6. Dudley Knowles, Political Philosophy, Routledge, 2001
7. Jonathan Wolff, An Introduction to Political Philosophy, OUP, 1996
8. John Dryzek, Bonnie Honig and Anne Phillips (eds), The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory, OUP, 2008
9. Jean Hampton, Political Philosophy, New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 1998
10. Theories of the State – Andrew Vincent.
11. Political Theory: Ideas and Concepts – Sushila Ramaswamy.
12. Political Theory and the Modern State –David Held.
13. A Theory of Justice –John Rawls.
14. Contemporary Political Theories –Bhiku Parekh.
15. Political Theory: Ideas and Institutions –Amal Ray, Mohit Bhattacharya.
16. Contemporary Political Theory –J.C.Johari.
17. Political Theory –V.D. Mahajan.
18. Political Theory –Eddy Asirvatham, K.K. Misra .
19. A Grammar of Politics – Harold J. Laski.
20. An Introduction to Political Theory – O.P. Gauba.
21. A History of Political Theory –George H Sabine.
22. The Decline of Political Theory; Political Science Quarterly, pp.321-337,-A Cobban.
23. Political Theory: Philosophy; Ideology and Science –A. Hacker.
24. Modern Political Theory- S.P. Varma
25. Political Theory: The Foundations of 20th Century Political Thought- Arnold Brecht.
26. Introduction to Modern Political Theory- C.E.M. Joad
27. Political Theory: An Introduction- Rajiv Bhargav and Ashok Acharya
28. Modern Political Theory- Madan Gandhi
29. Introduction to Political Ideologies- Arvind Sivaramakrishnan

Suggested Readings:-

1. Adrian Leftwich: What is Politics: The Activity and Its Study, Polity Press, 2004
2. AmartyaSen, "Equality of What?" in S.M.McMurrin, ed., The Tanner Lectures on Human Values, Cambridge University Press, 1980, pp 195-220.
3. Bhikhu Parekh, "Equality in a Multicultural Society", in Rethinking Multiculturalism, Palgrave, 2000

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First Semester

Paper Code-CC-2

Indian Political Thought

Credits: 5

Course Outline:

This course aims at introducing to the students the major themes of Indian political thought which will help them in developing an in-depth understanding of the major political thinkers of this tradition. The purpose is to make the students aware about the basic political philosophies of Indian thinkers. The objective is also to initiate students to read original texts of Indian thinkers and to understand the varied interpretations of their philosophies and debates. The ambition of the course is also to investigate fundamental issues in contemporary politics in India through reflection on texts in the history of political thought. The course also discusses the relevance of these political thinkers in the present socio political context of India.

Unit - I: Manu (Manusmriti)- Origin of the Universe, Social Orders, The King and Duties- Theory of State and Political Ideas, Position of Women,

Kautilya (Arthashastra) (Ideas on State, Bureaucracy, Foreign Policy): The Kautilyan State and Its Constituent Elements and Society, Ideas of Kinship, Kautilyan Foreign Policy- The Theory of Administration.

Unit - II: M. K Gandhi-(• Idea of Swaraj • Trusteeship • Sarvodaya) Gandhi: Gandhi's Concept of Non-violence, Satyagraha, State, Gandhi's Economic ideas, Trusteeship, Swaraj, Sarvodaya-Religious and Politics, Gandhism, Anarchism and Marxism- Gandhian.

Jawaharlal Nehru-(• Humanism • Democracy • Socialism) Democratic Socialism in India: Jawaharlal Nehru-Socialism and Democracy;

Unit-III: Caste, Social Reform and Nationalism: Views of Jyotirao Phule and B.R. Ambedkar.

Unit – IV: B.R Ambedkar-(• Social Democracy • Social Justice • Liberty, equality and Fraternity) S.C. Bose- Concept of Samya, Doctrine of Synthesis.

Unit- V: M.N. Roy- Radical Humanism and Neo-Humanism, Jaya Prakash Narayan- (Socialism, Sarvodaya and Partyless democracy, Total Revolution, Rebuilding of the Nation)

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya- (Integral Humanism, Antyodaya, Cultural Nationalism)

Suggested Readings: -

1. Appadorai A., 1987, Indian Political Thinking in the 20th century, New Delhi, South Asian

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Publishers
2. LohiaRammanohar, 1976, Marx Gandhi and Socialism, Hyderabad, Scientific Socialist Educational Trust
3. Mehta V. R., 1996, Indian Political Thought, New Delhi, Manohar 17
4. Mehta V. R., and Thomas Pantham (eds.), 2006, Political Ideas in Modern India: Thematic Explorations, New Delhi, Sage
5. Pantham Thomas and Kenneth Deutsch (eds.), 1986, Political Thought in Modern India, New Delhi, Sage
6. Parekh Bhikhu 1995, Gandhi's Political Philosophy, New Delhi, Ajanta Interntional
7. Parekh Bhikhu and Thomas Pantham (eds.), 1987, Political Discourse: Explorations in Indian and Western Political Thought, New Delhi, Sage 8. Rodrigues Valerian (ed.), 200

Other Readings:

1. History of Indian Social and Political Ideas: From Rammahan to Dayananda –Biman Behari Majumdar.
2. Modern Indian Political Thought –V. P. Verma.
3. Modern Indian Political Thought: Rammahan Roy to Present Day.
4. Political Thought in Modern India –Thomas Pantham and Kenneth Deutsch.
5. Foundations of Indian Political Thought –V. R. Mehata.
6. Colonial India: Ideas and Movement –Tarun Kumar Banerjee and Desesh Roychoudhary.
7. Politics and Society; Rammahan to Nehru.
8. Gandhi's Political Philosophy: A Critical Examination –Bhiku parekh.
9. State and Government in Ancient India A.S. Altekar.
10. The Bengal Renaissance, Classical Publishing Company –K. S.Bhattacharjee .
11. Essays on Colonialism, Orient Longman, New Delhi.
12. Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World, Oxford University Press –Partha Chatterjee.
13. Netaji: Collected Works (volume II),Netaji Research Bureau , Netaji Bhawan, Calcutta –Sisir Kumar Bose.
14. India Today –R. P. Dutta.
15. Kautilya Arthashastra (ed by L.N. Rangrajan), Penguin New Delhi –V.R. Mehta
16. Indian Political Thought, Manohar Publications, Delhi,
17. The Discovery of India, Oxford, New Delhi –J. Nehru.
18. Gandhi's Political Philosophy, Ajanta, Delhi.
19. The Political Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo, Motilal Benarasidas –V. P. Verma.
20. New Humanism: A Manifesto, Renaissance Publishers, Private Limited, Calcutta.
21. Ambedkar's Vision of 'Just Society', Badal Sarkar, Readers Service, Calcutta.
22. Modern Indian Political Thought: Bidyut Chakrabarty & Rajendra Kumar Pandey, Sage.
23. Indian Political Thought: K.S. Padhy, PHI Learning.
24. Great Political Thought(Western &Indian): Ramchandra Gupta.
25. Western and Indian Political Thought: Prem Arora & Brij Grover.
26. Modern Indian Political Thought: Bidyut Chakrabarty and Rajendra Kumar Pandey

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First Semester
Paper Code- CC-3

Western Political Thought

Credit: 5

Course Outline:

This course deals with the classical thinkers and themes of western political philosophy. We will probe the key concerns of political thought such as justice and the good ideal and possible regimes, citizenship and civil virtues, contract, consent and trust as the basis of political obligation and the relative autonomy of politics vis-à-vis philosophy or economy. We will attempt to understand thinkers and texts both from philosophical and historical perspective. The main objective is to train students in the foundational texts and thinkers of political science.

Unit – I: Greek Political Thought • Plato: Justice in individual and city - cave allegory - philosopher kings - wisdom and its relationship to politics, • Plato - Republic • Aristotle: Polis and the good life - constitution regimes and citizenship-tensions between wealth, virtue and freedom - politics and practical wisdom • Aristotle – Politics

Unit – II: Medieval Thought: (Church-State Controversy-Development of Christian Political Idea)

St. Thomas Aquinas: (Theory of Law, Theory of Government), Niccolo Machiavelli: (The Prince - The Context, Contents, Political Realism, Niccolo Machiavelli: Discourses - The Context, Content and the Theory of the Republic - An Assessment)

Unit – III: Contractualists: Thomas Hobbes: State and nature and hypothetical contract-grounds of political obligation— absolute sovereign - the new science and society.

Johan Locke: Nature law and reason - consent and political authority - limited government and property, Locke, Second Treatise

Rousseau: Natural condition of humans –material progress, civilization and injustice— the general will - Great legislator and civil religion, Rousseau, The Social Contract

Unit – IV: Utilitarianism: Bentham- Principles of Utility, State, Government Psychological Hedonism-Obligation and Rules-Sovereignty and law-Liberalism.

John Stuart Mill (Utilitarian legacy-individuality, freedom and progress, - On Liberty)

Unit – V: Karl Marx (Marx on alienation, Class struggle and revolution Historical Materialism)

Western Marxism: Intellect background; Contribution of Antonio Gramsci and Frank Furt School.

Suggested Readings:

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1. Bluhm, W.T. Theories of Political Systems: Classics of Ancient and Modern Political Thought, Prentice Hall, New Delhi, 1981.

2. Dunning, William. A History of Political Theories, Allahabad, 1966. 3. Bernstein, William. Modern Political Thought, Oxford and IBH, 1974.

3. Jones, W.T. Masters of Political Thought, OUP, 1975. 4. Sabine, G.H. A History of Political Theory. OUP, 1973.

5. Strauss, Leo and Cropsey, Joseph. History of Political Philosophy, Chicago, 1987.

6. Voegelin, Eric. Order and History: Plato and Aristotle, Louisiana State University Press, 1957.

7. Wiser, James. Political Philosophy: A History of the Search for Order. Prentice-Hall, 1982.

8. Wolin, Sheldon, Politics and Vision, University of California Press

Other Readings:

1. The Enlightenment –Norman Geras and Robert Wokler.
2. A History of Political Theory: Plato to Marx –Subrata Mukherjee and Sushila Ramaswamy.
3. Engaging Political Philosophy; From Hobbes to Rawls, Blackwell, Massachusetts, 2002.
4. Greek Political Theory; Plato and his Predecessors, Surajeet Publications, New Delhi –Earnest Barker.
5. Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present, Oxford University Press 2003 –David Boucher & Paul Kelly (Ed)
6. A History of Modern Political Thought, Blackwell, Oxford, 1997 –Jain M Hampsher Monk.
7. Western Political Thought, K.P. Bagchi, -Amal Kumar Mukhapadhaya.
8. Thomas Hobbes and the Natural Law Tradition, The University of Chicago press –Norberto bobbio.
9. An Introduction to Political Thought: A Conceptual Toolkit, Edinburg University press –Peri Roberts & Peter Sutch.
10. An Introduction to Plato's Laws. Basil Blackwell,-R.F. Staley.
11. Introduction in Aristotle, The Politics, Cambridge University press –Stephen Everson.
12. Aristotle's Political Theory, Clavendon Press –R.G. Mulgan.
13. The Prince - Machiavelli (Translated and Edited by Robert M. Adams, W W Norton and Company.
14. Rousseau: A very Short Introduction, Oxford -Robert Walker.
15. Modern Western Political Thought : R.P.Sharma
16. Political Thought: G.H.Sabine
17. Western Political Thought: O.P.Gauba, MacMillan Pub.
18. Modern Political Thought: J.P.Suda.
19. A History of Political Thought-(Vol.I & II): Sukhbir Singh.

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First Semester
Paper Code-DCE

Indian Politics: Governance and Institutions

Credit: 5

Course Outline:

Teaching politics in a country has to be grounded in understanding and analysis of politics of the country concerned. Thus, this paper seeks to introduce students the key institutions and processes of governance in India. Organized in five units, the course deals with historical legacies and foundations of Indian state and democracy with reference to the making of the Indian Constitution. It examines and locates changing patterns of Centre-state relations within the broad framework of transformation of India's polity from a centralized federation to a multilevel federal system. It will engage with the major aspects of the different organs of government, namely the legislature, executive and the judiciary. It would also examine some of the new institutions that have emerged in India in recent decades.

Unit I: Institutional legacies and making of the Constitution: Historical inheritance and institutional legacies Making of India's Constitution: Major features of the Constitution Foundational principles/Core values: Fundamental Rights & Duties, Directive Principles of State Policies.

Unit II: Institutions of governance: a. Legislature: Legislation, accountability and representation; Parliamentary Committees; Decline of legislatures? b. Executive: President: New and emerging role; Prime Minister and Council of Ministers: Collective responsibility and parliamentary accountability; Growing importance of the Cabinet; Governor and Chief Ministers: Changing relationship; Civil services c. The Judiciary: Judicial independence and review; Judicial activism and overreach

Unit III: India as a parliamentary federation Major features of Indian federalism: Tension areas and issues in Centre-State Relations Transformation from centralized federation to multilevel federalism

Unit IV: Parties and party system National and regional parties: Social and ideological bases Transformation of the party system: From one party dominant system to multiparty system Coalition governments and coalition politics at the national and state level; Politics of Defections-Anti-Defection Law.

Unit V: Regulatory and governance institutions: Planning Commission & NITI Aayog; Finance Commission; Inter-State Council, Election Commission of India: Electoral Process-Electoral Reforms & Voting Behaviour. National Human Rights Commission, Central Information Commission, Vigilance Commission; Comptroller and Auditor General; Lok Pal and Lokayukta.

Suggested Readings:

1. Austin, Granville. 1966. The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a nation. Oxford: Clarendon Press, chapter 1, 2, 3 and 4.

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2. Dasgupta, Jyotirindra. 2001. "India's federal design and multicultural national construction," University Press/ Foundation, chapter 3.

3. Jha, Shefali. 2008. "Rights versus representation: Defending minority interests in the Constituent Assembly," in Rajeev Bhargava (ed.) Politics and ethics of the Indian Constitution. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp.339-353.

4. Khosla, Madhav. 2013. The Indian Constitution. New Delhi: OUP short introduction series.

5. Kothari, Rajni.1970. Politics in India. New Delhi: Orient Longman, chapter 2.

6. Sarkar, Sumit. 2001. "Indian democracy: The historical inheritance," in Kohli (ed.). The success of India's democracy, chapter 2.

Suggested Readings:

Unit II 1. Hewitt, Vernon and Shirin M. Rai.2010. "Parliament," in Niraja Gopal Jayal and Pratap Bhanu Mehta (eds). The Oxford companion to politics in India. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp.28-42.

2. Shankar, B. L., and Valerian Rodrigues. 2010. The Indian Parliament: a democracy at work. Oxford: Oxford University Press, chapter 1 and 3.

3. Austin, Working a democratic Constitution, pp.534-93; pp.604-13.

4. Chakrabarty, Bidyut. 2006. "Jawaharlal Nehru and administrative reconstruction in India: A mere limitation of the past or a creative initiative?" South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies 29 (1), pp.83-99.

5. Das, S.K. 2013. The civil services in India. New Delhi: OUP short introduction series

6. Khare, H. 2003. "Prime Minister and Parliament: Redefining accountability in the age of coalition government," in Ajay K. Mehra, and G.W. Kueck, (eds.). The Indian Parliament: A comparative perspective. New Delhi: Konark, pp.350- 368.

7. Krishnan, K.P and T.V. Somanathan. 2005. "Civil service: An institutional perspective," in Kapur and Mehta, Public institutions in India, chapter 7.

8. Manor, James. 2005. "The presidency," in Devesh Kapur and Pratap Bhanu Mehta (eds.). Public institutions in India: Performance and design. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, chapter 3.

9. Radin, Beryl. 2007. "The Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in the 21st Century: Living in an intergovernmental environment". International Journal of Public Administration. 30 (12-14), pp.12-14.

10. Verma, Arvind. 2005. "The Police in India: Design, performance and adaptability," in Kapur and Mehta (eds.), Public institutions in India, chapter 6.

11. Rajamani, Lavanya and Arghya Sengupta. 2010. "The Supreme Court" in Jayal and Mehta (eds). The Oxford companion to politics in India, pp.80-97.

12. Mehta, PratapBhanu. 2007. "The rise of judicial sovereignty," Journal of Democracy 18 (2), pp.70-83.
13. Sathe, S.P. 2002. Judicial activism in India: Transgressing borders and enforcing limits. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, chapters 2 and 3.

Suggest Readings:

Unit III 1. Arora, Balveeret. al. 2013. "Indian federalism," in K.C. Suri (ed.) ICSSR research surveys and explorations: Political Science: Indian Democracy, Volume

2. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 2. Arora, Balveer. 1995. "Adapting federalism to India: Multilevel and asymmetrical and innovations," in Douglas V. Verney and BalveerArora (eds.). Multiple identities in a single state: Indian federalism in comparative perspective. New Delhi: Konark.

3. Mathur, Kuldeep. 2013. Panchayati Raj. New Delhi: OUP short introduction series

4. Singh, Mahendra P. and Douglas V. Verney. 2003. "Challenges to India's centralised parliamentary federalism," Publius 33(4),pp.1-20.

5. Tummala, Krishna K. 2007. "Developments in Indian federalism: 2005–2007,"Asian Journal of Political Science 15 (2), pp.139-160.

Suggested Readings:

Unit IV 1. Kothari, Rajni. 1964. "The Congress 'system' in India," Asian Survey 4(12), pp.1161-73.

2. Kothari, Rajni. 1970. "Continuity and change in India's party system," Asian Survey 10(11), pp.937-48

3. Sridharan, 1999. "Coalition politics in India: Lessons from theory, comparison and recent history" in D. D. Khanna and Gert W. Kueck (eds.). Principles, power and politics, New Delhi: Macmillan India

4. Sridharan, E. 2005. "Coalition strategies and the BJP expansion, 1989-2004," Commonwealth and Comparative Politics 43(2), pp.194-221.

5. Sridharan, E. 2010. "Party system," in Jayal and Mehta (eds). The Oxford companion to politics in India, pp.117-138.

6. Suri, K.C. 2005. Parties under pressure: Political parties in India since independence (paper presented for a project on State of democracy in South Asia. Delhi: CSDS). Available online: www.democracy-asia.org/qa/india/KC%20Suri.pdf

7. Yadav, Yogendra and SuhasPalshikar. 2006. "Party system and electoral politics in the Indian states, 1952-2002: From hegemony to convergence," in Peter Ronald deSouza, and E. Sridharan (eds.) India's political parties. New Delhi: Sage, pp.73-115.

Suggest Readings:

Unit V 1. Austin, Working a democratic Constitution, pp.614-30.

2. Bagchi, Amaresh. 2007. "Role of planning and the Planning Commission in the new Indian economy," Economic and Political Weekly, 42(44), pp.92-100.

3. Bhagat, Anjana K. 1996. Elections and electoral reforms in India. New Delhi: Vikas, pp.23- 102.

4. McMillan, Allister. 2010. "The Election Commission" in Jayal and Mehta (eds.), Oxford companion to politics in India, pp. 98-116.

5. Rudolph, Lloyd I. and Sussane I. Rudolph. 2001. "Redoing the constitutional design from an interventionist to a regulatory state," in Kohli (ed.), The success of India's democracy, pp.127- 62.

6. Chadda, Maya. 2012. "India in 2011: The state encounters the people," Asian Survey 52(1), pp.114-29.

7. Visvanathan, Shiv. 2012. "Anna Hazare and the battle against corruption," Cultural Critique 81(spring), pp.103-111.

Other Readings:

Basu, D. D. 2004. Introduction to the Constitution of India; LexisNexis: New Delhi(26th Edition).
Pylee, M.V. 1967. India's Constitution; Asia Publishing House: Bombay, S.Chand and Company(16th edition) New Delhi,
Indian Government and Politics: B.L.Fadia
Indian Government and Politics: S.L.Sikri
Indian Government and Politics: K.K.Ghai
Indian Politics: M.P.Singh & Rekha Saxena.
Indian Administration: S.K.Chatterjee
Evolution of Indian Administration: B.N.Puri
Government and Politics in India: W.H. MorrisJones
Indian Administration: H.R. Mukhi
State and Politics in India: Partha Chatterjee
Politics in India: Sudipta Kabiraj
Our Parliament: Subhas C. Kashyap
Our Constitution: Subhas C. Kashyap
Constitution of India: Brij Kishore Sharma
Indian Government and Politics: Bidyut Chakrabarty and Rajendra Kumar Pandey, SAGE Text.

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