

Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University
FACULTY OF ARTS
SYLLABI FOR M.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE
(CBCS - SEMESTER SYSTEM) 2020-21

Courses offered in the Department of Political Science
Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University

SYLLABUS

M.A. - 1st Semester
Core Course: PS - 101
Key Concepts in Political Analysis
Credits: 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 doing 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, Care

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

Suggested Readings:-

1. Adrian Leftwich: What is Politics: The Activity and Its Study, Polity Press, 2004
2. Amartya Sen, "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
4. Colin Gordon et.al, eds., The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality, University of Chicago Press, 1991
5. Craig Calhoun, "Civil Society and Public Sphere", in Public Culture, Vol 5, No2, 1995.
6. David Held, Models of Democracy, Polity, 2006 (Third Edition)
7. David Held, Political Theory and the Modern State, Polity Press, 1989
8. David Miller: The Liberty Reader, Paradigm Publishers, 2006
9. John Rawls, 'Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical', Philosophy and Public Affairs, Vol 14 (3), 1985.
10. Michael Walzer, "Complex Equality", in Spheres of Justice: A Defence of Pluralism and Equality, Martin Robertson, 1983
11. Roberto Bobbio, 'Gramsci and the conception of civil society' in Chantal Mouffe (ed) Gramsci and Marxist Theory, Routledge, 1979.
12. Robert Nozick, "Distributive Justice", in Anarchy, State and Utopia, Oxford, Blackwell, 1974
13. Ronald Dworkin, 'What is Equality? Part I: Equality of Welfare', Philosophy and Public Affairs, Vol 10/3, 1981
14. Ronald Dworkin, 'What is Equality? Part II: Equality of Resources', Philosophy and Public Affairs, Vol 10/4, 1981.
15. Selma Sevenhuijsen, 'The Place of Care: The Relevance of the Feminist Ethic of Care for Social Policy' in Feminist Theory, 4(2), 2003.
16. Simone Chambers and Will Kymlicka, eds., Alternative Conceptions of Civil Society, Princeton University Press, 2002.
17. Steven Lukes, Power: A Radical Critique, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

**M.A. – 1st Semester
Core Course: PS – 102
Indian Political Thought
Credits: 5**

1. Kautilya

- Ideas on State
- Bureaucracy
- Foreign Policy

2. Raja Rammohan Roy

- Liberalism
- Views on Individual Freedom

- Law and judicial system
- 3. M. K Gandhi**
 - Idea of Satyagraha
 - Trusteeship
 - Swaraj
- 4. Jawaharlal Nehru**
 - Humanism
 - Democracy
 - Socialism
- 5. B.R Ambedkar**
 - Democracy
 - Social Justice
 - Liberty, Equality and Fraternity

Suggested Readings:-

1. Appadorai A., 1987, Indian Political Thinking in the 20th century, New Delhi, South Asian Publishers
2. Lohia Rammanohar, 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 International
7. Parekh Bhikhu and Thomas Pantham (eds.), 1987, Political Discourse: Explorations in Indian and Western Political Thought, New Delhi, Sage
8. Rodrigues Valerian (ed.), 2002, The Essential Writings of B.R. Ambedkar, New Delhi, OUP
9. B.R Ambedkar, 'Annihilation of Caste'
10. M.K Gandhi, 'Hind Swaraj'

**M.A. – 1st Semester
Core Course: PS – 103
Western Political Thought
Credits: 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 – 1: 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 – 2: Medieval Thought

- Church-State Controversy-Development of Christian Political Ideas
- 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 – 3: 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: Unspoilt natural condition of humans –material progress, civilization and injustice—the general will - Great legislator and civil religion, Rousseau, The Social Contract

Unit – 4: John Stuart Mill

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

Unit – 5: Karl Marx

- The state and bourgeois rule-capitalism and alienation
- Worker’s consciousness and revolution.
- Philosophy of History and Historical Materialism

Suggested Readings

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

M.A. - 1st Semester
Core Course: PS – 104
Indian Politics: Institutions and Processes
Credits: 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. Organised 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 centralised 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, 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 centralised 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

Unit V: Regulatory and governance institutions:

Planning Commission; Finance Commission; Inter-State Council

Election Commission of India; National Human Rights Commission

Central Information Commission, Vigilance Commission; Comptroller and Auditor General; Lok Pal and Lokayukta

Suggested Readings: Unit 1

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

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 DeveshKapur and PratapBhanu 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 ArghyaSengupta. 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.

SuggestReadings: 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. Readings:

Suggest 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. Readings:

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.
