



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

BA FIRST SEMESTER (MAJOR)

The first-semester Major courses in Political Science are designed to provide students with a foundational understanding of the theoretical and institutional dimensions of politics. Paper I: Political Theory introduces the nature and scope of Political Science as an academic discipline and as a systematic study of state, government, power, and political systems. It engages students with key concepts such as sovereignty, liberty, and equality, and critically examines the evolution of political ideas across idealist, liberal, socialist, Gandhian, and contemporary libertarian perspectives. The course also familiarizes learners with major methodological approaches—historical, philosophical, behavioural, and post-behavioural—enabling them to appreciate the diversity of theoretical traditions and their relevance to the study of modern political life.

Paper II: Theory and Practice of Modern Governments focuses on the comparative study of three major political systems: the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and China. It explores their constitutional frameworks, institutional structures, and governing processes, including the roles of the legislature, executive, and judiciary, as well as the nature of party systems and political conventions. By examining the similarities and contrasts among these political models, students develop a nuanced understanding of constitutionalism, democratic governance, and the dynamic relationship between political theory and practice in different socio-political contexts.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Paper	Title of the Course	Credits	Internal	End Semester (combined exam)	Max Marks
01	Political Theory	4	30	140	200
02	Theory and Practice of Modern Governments (UK, USA and China)	4	30		

PAPER-I (MAJOR)

POLITICAL THEORY

UNIT I – DEFINITION

- a) Nature and Scope of Political Science.
- b) Political Science as study of State Government, Power, and Political System.
- c) Nomenclature: Political Science, Politics, Political Theory, Political Philosophy, Comparative Politics.

UNIT II – APPROACHES

- a) Historical
- b) Philosophical
- c) Behavioural and post-behavioural.

UNIT III – STATE

- a) Meaning and Elements
- b) Dominant Perspectives: Idealistic, Liberal and Social Welfare
- c) Contemporary Libertarian Concept, Gandhian Concept and Marxian view of the State

UNIT IV – ORIGIN OF THE STATE

- a) Different Theories: Divine-origin and Force Theory
- b) Social Contract and Evolutionary Theory
- c) Globalization and Challenges before Nation-state

UNIT V – CONCEPTS

- a) Sovereignty
- b) Liberty
- c) Equality

REQUIRED READINGS

- Bhargava, R and Acharya, A. (2008). *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman.
- 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.
- Glaser, D. (1995) 'Normative Theory', in Marsh, D. and Stoker, G. (eds.) *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. London: Macmillan, pp. 21-40.
- O. P. Gauba (2021). *An Introduction to Political Theory*. Delhi: Mayur Books.
- Sanders, D. (1995) 'Behavioural Analysis', in Marsh, D. and Stoker, G. (eds.) *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. London: Macmillan, pp. 58-75.
- Chapman, J. (1995) 'The Feminist Perspective', in Marsh, D. and Stoker, G. (eds.) *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. London: Macmillan, pp. 94-114.
- Bannett, J. (2004) 'Postmodern Approach to Political Theory', in Kukathas, Ch. and Gaus, G.F. (eds.) *Handbook of Political Theory*. New Delhi: Sage, pp. 46-54.
- Vincent, A. (2004). *The Nature of Political Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004, pp.19-80.
- सिंह, ज्ञान सिंह (1988). राजनीति सिद्धान्त, हिन्दी माध्यम कार्यान्वयन निदेशालय।
- वेपर, सी0एल0 (2025). राजदर्शन का स्वाध्याय, किताब महल प्रकाशन, नई दिल्ली।
- भार्गव, राजीव, अशोक आचार्य (2011). राजनीति सिद्धान्त : एक परिचय, पियर्सन।

PAPER-II (MAJOR)

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MODERN GOVERNMENTS

(UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CHINA)

UNIT I – BRITISH CONSTITUTION

- a) Salient Features, Conventions, Monarchy
- b) Parliament: Organization, Powers and functions.

UNIT II – BRITISH CONSTITUTION

- a) Prime Minister, Cabinet and Party System
- b) Judiciary: Power and Functions

UNIT III – AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

- a) Salient Features, Federalism
- b) President and the cabinet & Party System

UNIT IV – AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

- a) Congress: Organization, Powers and Functions
- b) Supreme Court: Organization, Powers and Function, Judicial Review

UNIT V – CHINESE CONSTITUTION

- a) Salient Features
- b) Communist Party of China & President
- c) National People's Congress
- d) Supreme People's Court

REQUIRED READINGS

- Bagehot W. & Taylor M. (2001). *The English constitution*. Oxford University Press.
- Bomb wall K. R. (1964). *Major contemporary constitutional systems* ([2d ed.]). Modern Publications.
- Cameron M. A. & Oxford University Press. (2013). *Strong constitutions: social-cognitive origins of the separation of powers*. Oxford University Press.
- Dicey A. V. (1959). *Introduction to the study of the law of the constitution* (10th ed.). Macmillan; St. Martin's Press.
- Hamilton A. Madison J. Jay J. & Shapiro I. (2009). *The Federalist Papers: Alexander Hamilton James Madison & John Jay*. Yale University Press.
- Harvey J. & Bather L. joint author. (1972). *The British constitution by j. Harvey and l. bather* (3d ed.).
- Jowell J. & Oliver D. (2011). *The changing constitution* (7. ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Kapur A. C & Mishra K. K (2022) *Select Constitutions*, Chand and Company Ltd.
- Levy L. W. Karst K. L. & Winkler A. (2000). *Encyclopaedia of the American constitution* (2nd ed.). Macmillan Reference USA.
- Ogg F. A. Ray P. O. & Young W. H. (1959). *Ogg and Ray's Essentials of American government* (8th ed.). Appleton-Century-Crofts.
- Pad field C. F. & Byrne T. (1987). *British constitution made simple* (7th ed.). Heinemann.