



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

BA FOURTH SEMESTER (MAJOR)

The Fourth Semester Major in Political Science advances students' understanding of modern political thought and the dynamics of political systems. Through two complementary papers, the programme develops the ability to analyse political ideas alongside political processes.

Paper-I: Western Political Thought: Modern to Contemporary examines the development and critique of modern political ideas. It traces utilitarianism in Jeremy Bentham and its refinement in John Stuart Mill, followed by ethical liberalism in T. H. Green. The course then explores idealism in Hegel and its critique in Karl Marx, concluding with revolutionary and feminist perspectives in Vladimir Lenin and Mary Wollstonecraft.

Paper-II: Comparative Politics: Political Processes, Participation and Power focuses on the functioning of political systems. It examines political culture, socialisation, modernisation and development, along with political parties, party systems and pressure groups. The course also analyses electoral systems, voting behaviour and public opinion, highlighting their role in democratic participation and the distribution of power.

Together, these papers provide a foundation for understanding both the evolution of modern political ideas and the processes through which political power operates.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Paper	Title of the Course	Credits	Internal	End Semester (Combined Exam)	Max Marks
01	Western Political Thought: Modern to Contemporary	4	30	140	200
02	Comparative Politics: Political Processes, Participation and Power	4	30		

PAPER-I (MAJOR)

WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT: MODERN TO CONTEMPORARY

UNIT I: Utilitarian Foundations

- a) Jeremy Bentham: Principle of Utility
- b) Bentham: Importance and Contribution

UNIT II: Liberalism and Liberty

- a) John Stuart Mill: Liberty and Individuality
- b) Mill: Revision of Utilitarianism and Democracy

UNIT III: Ethical Liberalism and the State

- a) T. H. Green: Positive Freedom and Idealism
- b) Green: State and Rights

UNIT IV: Idealism and Its Critique

- a) G. W. F. Hegel: Dialectics and State
- b) Karl Marx: Dialectical Materialism and Class Conflict

UNIT V: Revolution and Critique of Exclusion

- a) Vladimir Lenin: State, Revolution and Party
- b) Mary Wollstonecraft: Rights of Woman

REQUIRED READINGS

- George H. Sabine — A History of Political Theory
- Subrata Mukherjee & Sushila Ramaswamy — A History of Political Thought
- Sushila Jha — Western Political Thought: Ancient Greeks to Modern Times
- David McLellan — The Political Thought of Karl Marx
- Martin Cohen — Political Philosophy from Plato to Marx
- Mary Wollstonecraft — A Vindication of the Rights of Woman
- Brian R. Nelson — Western Political Thought
- Boucher & Kelly — Political Thinkers
- K. L. Kamal — Pashchatya Rajnitik Chintan
- Andrew Heywood — Political Theory: An Introduction

PAPER-II (MAJOR)

COMPARATIVE POLITICS: POLITICAL PROCESSES, PARTICIPATION AND POWER

UNIT I: Political Culture and Development

- a) Political Culture and Political Socialisation
- b) Political Modernisation and Political Development

UNIT II: Political Parties and Party Systems

- a) Political Parties: One-party, Two-party, Multi-party
- b) Party Systems: Liberal Democratic and Communist Models

UNIT III: Pressure Groups and Interest Articulation

- a) Meaning and Kinds of Pressure Groups
- b) Role and Techniques in Democracy

UNIT IV: Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour

- a) Electoral Systems
- b) Voting Behaviour

UNIT V: Public Opinion and Political Participation

- a) Public Opinion
- b) Its Role in Democratic Politics

REQUIRED READINGS

- Gary W. Cox — Making Votes Count
- John H. Aldrich — Why Parties?
- Zoya Hasan — Politics and the State in India
- The Oxford Handbook of Transformations of the State
- Caroline Spary — Gender, Development, and the State in India
- Gabriel Almond & Sidney Verba — The Civic Culture
- Lucian W. Pye — Politics, Personality and Nation Building
- Rajni Kothari — Politics in India
- Andrew Heywood — Politics
- Myron Weiner — Party Politics in India