



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

BA THIRD SEMESTER (MAJOR)

The third-semester major in Political Science offers a focused engagement with the foundations of Western political thought and the comparative study of political systems. Through two complementary papers, the programme develops students' ability to analyse political ideas alongside institutional structures.

Paper-I: Western Political Thought: Classical to Early Modern introduces the evolution of political philosophy from ancient Greece to the early modern period. It examines Greek political thought through Plato and Aristotle, followed by the transition from moral theology to secular politics in Thomas Aquinas and Niccolò Machiavelli. The course culminates in the social contract tradition with Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, focusing on sovereignty, rights and the general will.

Paper-II: Comparative Politics: Institutional Design and Forms of Government introduces the comparative study of political systems. It covers the nature and approaches to comparative politics, constitutionalism and the rule of law, and the structure of key institutions—legislature, executive and judiciary. The paper also examines forms of government (unitary/federal, parliamentary/presidential) and compares democratic and non-democratic regimes.

Together, these papers provide a conceptual and institutional foundation for understanding the evolution of political ideas and the comparative functioning of political systems.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Paper	Title of the Course	Credits	Internal	End Semester (Combined Exam)	Max Marks
01	Western Political Thought: Classical to Early Modern	4	30	140	200
02	Comparative Politics: Institutional Design and Forms of Government	4	30		

PAPER-I (MAJOR)

WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT: CLASSICAL TO EARLY MODERN

UNIT I: Greek Foundations of Political Philosophy

- a) Greek Political Thought: Background and Core Characteristics
- b) Plato: Justice and the Ideal State

UNIT II: Aristotle and the Empirical Turn

- a) Aristotle: Method and Theory of the State
- b) Aristotle: Social and Political Analysis

UNIT III: Religion, Morality and the State

- a) Thomas Aquinas: Law and State–Church Relationship
- b) Niccolò Machiavelli: Politics, Morality and Power

UNIT IV: Social Contract I – Order and Rights

- a) Thomas Hobbes: State of Nature and Sovereignty
- b) John Locke: Natural Rights and Limited Government

UNIT V: Social Contract II – Collective Will

- a) Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Social Contract and General Will
- b) Rousseau: Freedom and Collective Sovereignty

REQUIRED READINGS

- A History of Political Theory — George H. Sabine
- A History of Political Thought — Subrata Mukherjee & Sushila Ramaswamy
- Western Political Thought: Ancient Greeks to Modern Times — Sushila Jha
- Plato and Aristotle — Barker, E.
- History of Political Theory. — Dunning, W. A.
- Political Thought — Wayper, C. L.
- History of European Political Thought — Bhandari, D. R.
- Brian R. Nelson — Western Political Thought
- William Ebenstein — Great Political Thinkers: Plato to the Present
- Andrew Heywood — Political Theory: An Introduction

PAPER-II (MAJOR)

COMPARATIVE POLITICS: INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN AND FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

UNIT I: Understanding Comparative Politics

- a) Nature, Scope and Meaning of Comparative Politics
- b) Importance and Approaches (Traditional and Modern)

UNIT II: Constitution and Rule of Law

- a) Constitution and Constitutionalism: Meaning, Nature and Kinds
- b) Rule of Law

UNIT III: Organs of Government

- a) Legislature and Executive
- b) Judiciary and Separation of Powers

UNIT IV: Forms of Government

- a) Unitary and Federal Systems
- b) Parliamentary and Presidential Systems

UNIT V: Democratic and Non-Democratic Systems

- a) Democracy
- b) Dictatorship and Authoritarian Systems

REQUIRED READINGS

- J. C. Johari — Comparative Politics
- Charles Hauss — Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges
- Mark Kesselman et al. — Introduction to Comparative Politics
- O. P. Gauba — An Introduction to Political Theory
- Gabriel Almond & G. Bingham Powell — Comparative Politics: A Developmental Approach
- Rod Hague & Martin Harrop — Comparative Government and Politics
- Ronald H. Chilcote — Theories of Comparative Politics
- M. V. Pylee — Constitutional Government and Politics
- Andrew Heywood — Politics
- Macridis & Ward — Modern Political Systems: Europe and Asia