



इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय  
**UNIVERSITY OF ALLAHABAD**  
(A Central University)



## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

### BA THIRD SEMESTER (MINOR)

The Third Semester Minor in Political Science introduces students to key ideas in political thought and the basic structures of political systems. Through two papers, the course provides a concise foundation for understanding political theory and comparative politics.

Paper-I: Western Political Thought: Classical to Early Modern offers a selective overview of major political thinkers. It examines Plato and Aristotle on the nature of the state and justice, followed by Niccolò Machiavelli on politics and morality. The course introduces the social contract tradition through 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 basic concepts and structures of political systems. It covers the nature of comparative politics, constitutionalism and the rule of law, and the organisation of key institutions—legislature, executive and judiciary. The course also examines forms of government, including unitary and federal systems, and compares democratic and authoritarian regimes.

Together, these papers provide a foundational understanding of political ideas and institutional frameworks, preparing students for further study in political science.

### PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Paper	Title of the Course	Credits	Internal	End Semester (Combined Exam)	Max Marks
01	Western Political Thought: Classical to Early Modern	2	15	70	100
02	Comparative Politics: Institutional Design and Forms of Government	2	15		

## **PAPER-I (MINOR)**

# **WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT: CLASSICAL TO EARLY MODERN**

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### **UNIT I Greek Foundations of Political Philosophy**

- a) Plato: Justice and the Ideal State

### **UNIT II Aristotle and the Empirical Turn**

- a) Aristotle: Method and Theory of the State

### **UNIT III Morality and the State**

- a) Niccolò Machiavelli: Politics, Morality and Power

### **UNIT IV Social Contract I – Order and Rights**

- a) Thomas Hobbes and John Locke

### **UNIT V Social Contract II – Collective Will**

- a) Jean-Jacques Rousseau

### **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
- Ernest Barker — Plato and Aristotle
- W. A. Dunning — History of Political Theory
- C. L. Wayper — Political Thought
- D. R. Bhandari — History of European Political Thought
- Brian R. Nelson — Western Political Thought
- William Ebenstein — Great Political Thinkers: Plato to the Present
- Andrew Heywood — Political Theory: An Introduction

## **PAPER-II (MINOR)**

### **COMPARATIVE POLITICS: INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN AND FORMS OF GOVERNMENT**

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#### **UNIT I: Understanding Comparative Politics**

- a) Nature, Scope and Meaning of Comparative Politics

#### **UNIT II: Constitution and Rule of Law**

- a) Constitution and Constitutionalism

#### **UNIT III: Organs of Government**

- a) Legislature, Executive and Judiciary

#### **UNIT IV: Forms of Government**

- a) Unitary and Federal Systems

#### **UNIT V: Democratic and Non-Democratic Systems**

- a) Democracy 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