



U. G. SYLLABUS- NEP 2020

Political Science

TDC (NEP) 1st Semester

PLS: DSC 101: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY

Full marks- 100

(ESE- 70 Internal- 30)

Credit-3

Course Objectives:

- 1) To understand the fundamental concepts, nature, scope, and relevance of political theory.
- 2) To differentiate between politics, political science, and political theory, and recognize their interconnections.
- 3) To explore the meaning, forms, characteristics, merits, and demerits of democracy and analyze the conditions for its success.
- 4) To examine the concept of liberty, its definition, features, and different forms, along with the safeguards necessary for preserving liberty.
- 5) To investigate the meaning, features, kinds, and interrelationship between liberty and equality, and understand the role of equality in political theory.
- 6) To study the development of the idea of justice, different types of justice, and analyze John Rawls' theory of justice, as well as feminist and subaltern perspectives on justice.
- 7) To critically evaluate the principles of fairness in the context of protective discrimination and the role of the state in intervening in the institution of the family.

Units	Topics	Lectures
1	Politics: Meaning and Difference with Political Science and Political Theory. Political Theory: Meaning, Nature, Scope and Relevance.	
2	Basic Concepts: I Democracy: Meaning, Forms, Characteristics, Merits and Demerits, The Pre-conditions for the Success of Democracy. Liberty: Definition, Features, Forms of Liberty; Safeguards of Liberty. Equality: Meaning, Features, Kinds of Equality; Relation between Liberty and Equality.	

	Justice: Development of the Idea, Types of Justice, Rawls' Theory of Justice.	
3	Basic Concepts: II Citizenship: Meaning, Features, Genesis and Development; Methods of Acquisition and Loss of Citizenship. Rights- Meaning, Features, Kinds of Rights, Human Rights & the UNO. State: Definition, Evolution, Relationship between State and Civil Society.	
4	Debates in Political Theory: I Is Democracy Compatible with Economic Growth? Is Censorship Justified? Grounds of Censorship and its Limits.	
5	Debates in Political Theory: II Does Protective Discrimination violate Principles of Fairness? Should the State intervene in the Institution of the Family?	

Course Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Explain the meaning, nature, scope, and relevance of political theory.
- 2) Differentiate between politics, political science, and political theory and understand their interconnections.
- 3) Analyze the characteristics, merits, and demerits of democracy and evaluate the conditions for its success.
- 4) Identify and explain different kinds of rights, including human rights, and understand their importance in the international context.
- 5) Analyze and present arguments on the compatibility of democracy with economic growth and the justifications and limits of censorship.
- 6) Critically evaluate the principles of fairness in relation to protective discrimination and the role of the state in intervening in the institution of the family.

References

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3. Sen, A. (1999). *Development as Freedom*. Oxford University Press.
4. Rawls, J. (1971). *A Theory of Justice*. Harvard University Press.
5. Pateman, C. (1988). *The Sexual Contract*. Polity Press.
6. Marshall, T. H. (1950). *Citizenship and Social Class*. Pluto Press.
7. Shue, H. (1996). *Basic Rights: Subsistence, Affluence, and U.S. Foreign Policy*. Princeton University Press.
8. Cohen, J. (1989). Capitalism, Freedom, and the Proletariat. *Ethics*, 99(4), 906-931. doi:10.1086/293062
9. Keane, J. (1998). *Civil Society: Old Images, New Visions*. Stanford University Press.
10. Weber, M. (1919). *Politics as a Vocation*. In H. H. Gerth & C. Wright Mills (Eds.), *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. Routledge.
11. Mazumder, Narayan C. (2018). *Introduction to Political Theory*. Amardeep Publications