



U. G. SYLLABUS - NEP 2020

**Political Science**

TDC (NEP) 5th Semester

PLS: DSC 302: WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT I

Full marks- 100

(ESE- 70 Internal- 30)

Credit- 4

**Course Objectives:**

1. To study the political ideas and theories of classical Greek thinkers, including the Sophists, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.
2. To examine the theories of justice, virtues, and the dialectic method as proposed by the Sophists and Socrates.
3. To analyze Plato's theories of justice, education, communism of properties and wives, the concept of the philosopher king, and the ideal state.
4. To explore Aristotle's theories of citizenship, justice, the state, the classification of constitutions, and the concept of revolution.
5. To study the political ideas of Niccolo Machiavelli, focusing on virtue, religion and politics, and statecraft.
6. To examine the political theories of Thomas Hobbes, including human nature, the state of nature, the social contract, and the nature of the state.
7. To analyze the political ideas of John Locke, including the laws of nature, rights, and the social contract.

Units	Topics	Lectures
1	Classical Greek Political Thinkers: Sophists: Justice. Socrates (470 BC- 399 BC): Virtues, Dialectic Method.	
2	Plato (427 BC- 347 BC): Theories of Justice, Education, Communism of Properties and of Wives, Philosopher King, Ideal State.	
3	Aristotle (384 BC- 322 BC): Theories of Citizenship, Justice, State, Classification of Constitutions, Revolution.	

4	Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527): Virtue, Religion and Politics, Statecraft.	
5	Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679): Human nature, State of Nature, Social Contract, State; John Locke (1632-1704): Laws of Nature, On Rights, Social Contract.	

### **Course Outcomes:**

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

1. Identify and explain the key ideas and theories proposed by classical Greek political thinkers, including the Sophists, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.
2. Understand and evaluate the theories of justice, virtues, and the dialectic method as presented by the Sophists and Socrates.
3. Analyze and evaluate Plato's theories of justice, education, communism of properties and wives, the concept of the philosopher king, and the ideal state.
4. Examine and critically evaluate Aristotle's theories of citizenship, justice, the state, the classification of constitutions, and the concept of revolution.
5. Analyze and evaluate Niccolo Machiavelli's political ideas, including virtue, religion and politics, and statecraft.
6. Recognize and appreciate the diversity and complexity of Western political thought traditions and their influence on political theory and practice.

### **References**

1. Plato. (2000). *The Republic*. Oxford University Press.
2. Aristotle. (1998). *Politics*. Oxford University Press.
3. Plato. (2003). *The Trial and Death of Socrates*. Hackett Publishing.
4. Strauss, L. (1987). *The City and Man*. University of Chicago Press.
5. Machiavelli, N. (2019). *The Prince*. Penguin Classics.
6. Skinner, Q. (2002). *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought (Vol. 2): The Age of Reformation*. Cambridge University Press.
7. Hobbes, T. (1996). *Leviathan*. Cambridge University Press.
8. Locke, J. (1980). *Two Treatises of Government*. Cambridge University Press.

9. Strauss, L. (1958). *Natural Right and History*. University of Chicago Press.
10. Cahn, S. M. (2016). *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy*. Oxford University Press.
11. Johari, Gupta (2022-23). *Classical Political Philosophy*. Vishal Publishing Co