University of Pune

S.Y.B.A Political Science

G-2 General Paper

POLITICAL THEORY & CONCEPTS

(80-20 Pattern to be implemented from 2014-2015)

Course Objectives:
This is an introductory paper to the concepts, ideas and theories in political theory. It seeks to explain the evolution and usage of these concepts, ideas and theories with reference to individual thinkers both historically and analytically. The different ideological standpoints with regard to various concepts and theories are to be critically explained with the purpose of highlighting the differences in their perspectives and in order to understand their continuity and change. Furthermore there is a need to emphasize the continuing relevance of these concepts today and explain how an idea and theory of yesteryears gains prominence in contemporary political theory.

Term-I

Unit: 1 - Introducing Political Theory
a) Definitions, Nature & Scope
b) Traditions of Political Theory: Liberal & Conservative

Unit: 2 - State
a) Definitions Meaning and Elements
b) Perspectives on State (Liberal, Marxist)

Unit: 3 - Power & Authority
a) Conceptions of Power, Power as Exploitation, Authority, Hegemony, Foucault on Power
b) Authority: Meaning, Nature & its forms

Unit-4 - Right and Justice
a) Meaning, Nature & Kinds of Rights
b) Dimensions of Justice (Social, Economic Political)
Term-II

Unit: 5 – Liberty and Equality
   a) Liberty: Meaning, Nature, Classification: Negative & Positive Liberty

Unit: 6 – Democracy
   a) The Concept of Democracy, Direct Participatory & Liberal Democracy
   b) Perspectives on Democracy, Merits and demerits

Unit: 7 – Sovereignty
   a) Meaning & Characteristics of sovereignty
   b) Theory of Popular Sovereignty

Unit 8: Globalisation
   a) Definition, Meaning
   b) Impact of Globalisation

Readings:

Lodhi Kaniz Fatema, Political Theory
Chavan Shankar Political Theory, Pratima Prakshan, Pune.
Benke Suvarna, Rajkiya Siddhant, Prashant Publication, Jalgaon

Political Science 8

Political Science 9
G. Sartori, The Theory of Democracy Revisited: Vol 1: The Contemporary Debate and
S. P. Varma, Modern Political Theory, New Delhi, Vikas, 1983.
Abbas, Political Theory, Pearson 2011.
Course Objectives:

This paper studies the major constitutions of the World by adopting a comparative approach. The constitutional and legal provisions, the ideological basis, the institutional arrangement and their social and economic background are to be explained, analyzed and evaluated critically. The historical backgrounds to individual constitutions are to be emphasized to gain an understanding of its evolution. The comparative perspective enables the student to understand the differences and similarities between the various constitutional arrangements. Furthermore the political institutions are to be studied in light of the political process to gain an understanding of the dynamics of actual politics and policy making.

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<td><strong>Unit: 2 - Legislature</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Movements: Human Rights, Women’s Movement, Ethnic Movements</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Readings:

S. Beer, Britain Against Itself, London, Faber and Faber, 1982.
Course Objectives:
This paper studies the classical tradition in political theory from Plato to Marx with the view to understand how the great Masters explained and analyzed political events and problems of their time and prescribed solutions. The texts are to be interpreted both in the historical and philosophical perspectives to understand the universality of the enterprise of political theorizing. The limitations of the classical tradition, namely its neglect of women’s concerns and issues and the non-European world are critically examined. The legacy of the thinkers is explained with the view to establish the continuity and change within the Western political tradition.

Term-I

Unit: 1 - Plato
- a) Ideal State & Philosopher King
- b) Views on Education
- c) Views on Justice & Communism

Unit: 2 - Aristotle
- a) Views on State
- b) Views on Property, Views on Slavery
- c) Views on Revolution

Unit: 3 - Machiavelli
- a) Views on Human Nature
- b) Views on Religion & Morality
- c) Theory of Statecraft

Unit: 4 – J.S. Mil
- a) Views on Utilitarianism
- b) Views on Liberty
- c) Views on Representative Government & State

Term-II

Unit: 5 – Karl Marx
- a) Historical Materialism
- b) Theory of Class & Struggle
- c) Theory of State & Revolution

Unit: 6 - Hobbes
- a) State of Nature
- b) Views on Human Nature
- c) Theory of Social Contract
Unit: 7 – John Locke

a) Theory of Social Contract
b) Views on natural Rights
c) Views on civil society & State

Unit: 8 - Rousseau

a) State of Nature & Views on Human Nature
b) Theory of General Will
c) Theory of Social Contract

Readings:

Shefali Jha, Western Political Thought from Plato to Marx, Pearson, 2012
Biran R. N., Western Political Thought from Socrates to the Age of Ideology, Pearson 2008.
Section I
1. Definition, Nature and Scope of Political Sociology

2. Intellectual Foundation of Political Sociology
   a) Marx b) Max Weber c) Behavioral Approach

3. Political Culture.
   a) Meaning and Nature
   b) Types of Political Culture

4. Political Socialization
   a) Process and Agencies of Socialization

Section II
5. Political Ideology
   a) Meaning and Nature

6. Political Participation
   a) Meaning and Nature
   b) Levels of Participation
   c) Agencies of Recruitment

7. Legitimacy and Influence
   a) Meaning and Nature
   b) Types

8. Political Change, Political Development.
   a. Meaning and Nature
   b. Types of Political Change
   c) Concept of Political Development

Readings
1. Awari Vilas, Devare Suresh Adhunik Rajakiya Vishleshan, Dimond Pune.

