

Category II

Political Science Courses for Undergraduate Programme of study with Political Science as one of the Core Disciplines (B.A. Programmes with Political Science as Major discipline)

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE (DSC-7): Themes in Western Political Philosophy

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Themes in Western Political Philosophy MDSC-7	4	3	1	-	NA	NA

Learning Objectives

The objective of the course is to familiarise the students with the main ideas and themes of Western Philosophy in Modern times. Traversing through various schools of thought like romantics, liberals and radicals, that emerged with the period of enlightenment and onset of modernity in Europe, the course brings into light the important contribution to the developments of the ideas in them. The course not only develops a conceptual understanding but familiarize students with some of the important discourses and philosophies that laid the foundation of the modern western political thought and philosophy. It enhances the understanding of the past and the present challenges and the contribution of these ideas in the modern world.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course students would be able to:

- Understand the idea of modernity and establish a connection between societal changes and desired political prescriptions.
- Understand the tools of political argument.
- Identify various shades of political discourses and evaluate them.
- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of various regimes and philosophical approaches in order to gain a critical perspective on our own.
- To connect up broad philosophical theories and examine their implications for larger questions surrounding our collective existence.

SYLLABUS OF MDSC-7

UNIT – I (8 Hours)

Modernity and its discourses

Kant as an Enlightenment thinker; Faith on Reason; Autonomy; Ethics and Politics.

UNIT – II (14 Hours)

Romantics

a. Jean Jacques Rousseau

Critique of Modern civilization; Origins of inequality; State of Nature and the Contract; General Will; Democracy and self-government;

b. Mary Wollstonecraft

Women and paternalism; Sentiment and Reason; legal rights and representation

UNIT – III (9 Hours)

Liberal

John Stuart Mill

Liberal Utilitarianism; Liberty, suffrage and defence of democracy; subjection of women

UNIT – IV (14 Hours)

Radicals

a. Hegel

Ethical life: family, civil society and state

b. Karl Marx

Historical materialism; concept of value

Essential/recommended readings

1. Modernity and its discourses

Kant. (1784) 'What is Enlightenment?' available at <http://theliterarylink.com/kant.html>, Accessed: 19.04.2013

S. Hall (1992) 'Introduction', in *Formations of Modernity* UK: Polity Press pages 1-16 B. Nelson (2008) *Western Political Thought*. New York: Pearson Longman, pp. 221-255.

Rawls, J. *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*, Lectures on Rousseau, Harvard University Press, London pp: 191-229.

2. Romantics

M. Keens-Soper (2003) 'Jean Jacques Rousseau: The Social Contract', in M. Forsyth and M. Keens-Soper (eds) *A Guide to the Political Classics: Plato to Rousseau*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 171-202.

C. Jones (2002) 'Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindications* and their Political Tradition' in C. Johnson (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Mary Wollstonecraft*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 42-58.

3. Liberal

Mill, J.S. 'On Liberty' and other writings, Chapter 1, 3, 4.

Mill, J.S. *Utilitarianism* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2001), Chapter 1, 2, and 4

Rawls, J. *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*, Lectures on Mill, Harvard University Press, London Pp 251-314

Acton, H.B (1972), *John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism, Liberty and Representative Government*, David Campbell Publishers Ltd.

H. Magid (1987) 'John Stuart Mill', in L. Strauss and J. Cropsey (eds), *History of Political Philosophy*, 2nd edition. Chicago: Chicago University Press, pp. 784-801.

P. Kelly (2003) 'J.S. Mill on Liberty', in D. Boucher, and P. Kelly (eds.) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 324-359.

4. Radicals

Hegel's Philosophy of Right,

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/hegel/works/pr/philosophy-of-right.pdf>

J. Cropsey (1987) 'Karl Marx', in L. Strauss and J. Cropsey (eds) *History of Political Philosophy*, 2nd Edition. Chicago: Chicago University Press, pp. 802-828.

L. Wilde (2003) 'Early Marx', in D. Boucher and P. Kelly, P. (eds) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 404-435.

Additional Resources:

A. Bloom (1987) 'Jean-Jacques Rousseau', in Strauss, L. and Cropsey, J. (eds.) *History of Political Philosophy*, 2nd edition. Chicago: Chicago University Press, pp. 559-580.

A. Skoble and T. Machan (2007) *Political Philosophy: Essential Selections*, New Delhi: Pearson Education, pp. 328-354.

B. Ollman (1991) *Marxism: An Uncommon Introduction*, New Delhi: Sterling Publishers.

G. Blakely and V. Bryson (2005) *Marx and Other Four Letter Words*, London: Pluto

A. Skoble, and T. Machan (2007) *Political Philosophy: Essential Selections*, New Delhi: Pearson Education, pp. 286-327.

Hannah Arendt (1958), *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, New York: The World Publishing Company.

Readings in Hindi

सी. एल. वेपर (1954), राज दर्शन का स्वाध्ययन, इलाहबाद: किताब महल.

जे. पी. सूद (1969), पाश्चात्य राजनीतिक चिंतन, जय प्रकाश नाथ और कंपनी

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.