

## Category III

### **Political Science Courses for Undergraduate Programme of study with discipline as one of the Core Disciplines**

(For e.g. courses for B.A. Programmes with Political Science (discipline's name) as non-Major or Minor discipline)

#### DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE (DSC-1): Introduction to Political Theory

#### 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		
<b>Introduction to Political Theory MDSC 1A</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>

#### **Learning Objectives**

This course seeks to understand the unexamined explanation of what is political. It investigates various concepts like liberty, equality, justice that build the foundation of political theory. The core aim of the paper is to inculcate students to normatively and critically analyze the political arguments and debates. The course therefore develops understanding of the nature and significance of political theory through various perspectives and conceptual analysis.

#### **Learning outcomes**

After completing this course students will be able to:

- Understand the nature, scope and relevance of political theory
- Understand the different concepts of political theory such as liberty, equality justice, rights and fraternity
- Develop a broader historical, normative and empirical understanding of political theory
- Know and understand the ancient Greece and ancient Indian political theory
- Reflect upon the contemporary debates in political theory

#### **SYLLABUS OF DSC-1**

##### **UNIT – I (5 Weeks)**

What is Political Theory and what is its relevance?

##### **UNIT – II (8 Weeks)**

Concepts: Liberty, Equality, Justice, Rights

## **UNIT – III (5 Weeks)**

### **Debates in Political Theory:**

- a. Protective discrimination and principles of fairness?
- b. The Public vs private debate: Feminist Perspective Censorship and its limits

### **Essential/recommended readings**

#### **Unit I**

Bhargava, R. (2008) 'What is Political Theory', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 2-17.

Bhargava, R. (2008) 'Why Do We Need Political Theory', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A.(eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 18-37.

#### **Unit 2**

Sriranjani, V. (2008) 'Liberty', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 40-57.

Acharya, A. (2008) 'Equality', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 58-73.

Menon, K. (2008) 'Justice', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 74-82.

Talukdar, P.S. (2008) 'Rights', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 88-105.

#### **Unit 3**

Acharya, A. (2008) 'Affirmative Action', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 298-307.

Frances E O. (1985) 'The Myth of State Intervention in the Family', *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform*. 18 (4), pp. 835-64.

Sethi, A. (2008) 'Freedom of Speech and the Question of Censorship', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 308-319.

### **Suggestive readings**

Berlin, I. "Two Concepts of Liberty"

Rawls, John, *A Theory of Justice*

Jaggar, Alison, "Introduction", *Feminist Politics and Human Nature*

Kukathas, Chandran, "The Demise and Rise of Political Theory"

Riley, J. (2008) 'Liberty', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 103-125.

Casal, P. & William, A. (2008) 'Equality', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 149- 165.

Wolf, J. (2008) 'Social Justice', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 172-193.

Chambers, C. (2008) 'Gender', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) Issues in Political Theory. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 241-288.

Swift, A. (2001) Political Philosophy: A Beginners Guide for Students and Politicians. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Jha, M. (2001) 'Ramabai: Gender and Caste', in Singh, M.P. and Roy, H. (eds.) Indian Political Thought: Themes and Thinkers, New Delhi: Pearson.

Menon, N. (2008) 'Gender', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) Political Theory: An Introduction. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 224-235.

### **Hindi Reading**

भार्गव, राजीव और अशोक आचार्या (एड.), *राजनीतिक सिधांत: एक परिचय*, दिल्ली: पिएर्सन, 2008.

कुमार, संजीव, "राजनीति क्या है : "राजनीतिक" का सिधान्तीकरण", संजीव कुमार (एड.), *राजनीति सिधांत की समझ*, दिल्ली: ओरिएंट ब्लैकस्वान, 2019, pp. 1-26.

संजीव कुमार (एड.), *राजनीति सिधांत की समझ*, दिल्ली: ओरिएंट ब्लैकस्वान, 2019.

संजीव कुमार (एड.), *राजनीति सिधांत: अवधारणाएँ एवं विमर्श*, सेज भाषा, नई दिल्ली, 2021.

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