GE-12 Ancient Indian Polity

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the Course			Eligibility criteria	Prerequisite of the course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Ancient Indian Polity	04	3	1	0	Semester II Passed	Working Knowledge of Sanskrit

Learning Objectives

Fundamental Concepts of Indian Political thought have been discussed in Dharma-śāstra literature as the scientific branches of knowledge in ancient India. The aim of this course is to make the students acquainted with various aspects of Indian Political Thought and institutions of Polity as propounded in the ancient Sanskrit texts such as Vedic Samhitas, Mahābhārata, Purāṇas, Kauṭilya's Arthaśāstra and other works known as Nītiśāstra.

Learning outcomes

This course will enable the students to appreciate the fundamental concepts of Indian political thoughts discussed in ancient Sanskrit texts such as Vedic Samhitas, Mahābhārata, Purāṇas, Arthaśāstra, and other works known as Nītiśāstra. It is supposed to create an awareness of the various aspects of Indian political thoughts and institutions of polity and at the same time make the people politically conscious from time to time.

Detailed Syllabus

Unit I   **09 hrs**
Basic Features of Ancient Indian Political Thought:
   Name, Scope, and Sources of Ancient Indian Political Thought:
   Various Names of Indian Polity: 'Daṇḍanīti', Arthshastra, 'Dharmaśāstra', Rajshastra 'Nītiśāstra'.
   Sources of Ancient Indian Political Thought: Vedic Literature, Purāṇa, Rāmāyaṇa, Mahābhārata, Dharmaśāstra, Nītiśāstra Kautilya's Arthaśāstra and Rajaśāsana (Inscriptions).
   Prominent Indian Political Thinkers: Manu, Śukrācārya, Kauṭilya, Kāmandaka, Somadeva Suri.

Unit: II   **12 hrs**
Ancient Indian Political Thought: Origin and Development:
   Indian Political Thought from Vedic Period to Buddhist Period: Election of King by the People' Visas 'in Vedic period: (Ṛgveda,10.173;10.174, Atharvaveda, 3.4.2; 6.87.1-2), Parliamentary Institutions: 'Sabhā, 'Samiti' and 'Vidatha'

Ṛgveda, 10.85.26),
Democratic practices in the Buddhist Period (Diggnikāya, Mahāparinibbāṇa Sūtta, Anguttaranikāya, 1.213; 4.252, 256)

Unit: III   **12 hrs**
Nature, Types and Theories of the State:
Nature of the State in Arthaśāstra (6.1) and Manusmṛti (9.294) with Special Reference to Saptāṅga-Theory (Brief description)
Types of State: Rājya, Svarājya, Bhojya, Vairājya, Mahārājya, Sāmarājya (Aitreya Brāhmaṇa, 8.3.13-14; 8.4.15-16).

Kauṭilya's concept of the Welfare State (Arthaśāstra, 1.13); Essential Qualities of King (Arthaśāstra, 6.1.16-18); Duties of King and State 'Rajadharma' (Mahābhārata, Śāntiparva, 120.1-15; Manusmṛti, 7.1-15; Śukranīti,1.1-15) Constituent Elements of Jain political thought (Somadeva's Nītivākyāmṛta, 9.1.18 and, 19.1.10)

Unit IV   **12 hrs**
Cardinal Theories and Ancient Indian Political Thinkers
Cardinal Theories of Indian Political Science:
'Saptāṅga' Theory of State: Svāmī, Amātya, Janapada, Pura, Kośa, Daṇḍa and Mitra (Arthaśāstra-6.1, Mahābhārata-Śantiparva-56.5, Śukranīti, 1.61-62).
'Maṇḍala 'Theory of Inter-State Relations:
'Sadguṇya' Policy of War and Peace Diplomacy:
'Caturvidha Upāya' for balancing the power of State: Śāma, Dāma, Daṇḍa, Bheda.
Three types of State power 'Śakti': Prabhu Śakti, Mantra Śakti, and Utsāha Śakti.

[A] *References:*

Compulsory Reading:

1. R.P Kangale (ed.) Arthashastra of Kautilya, Motilal Banarasidas, Delhi, 1965.
2. R.T.H. Griffith (Trans.), Atharvaveda Samhita, 1896-97, rept. (2 Vols) 1968.
3. H.P. Shastri, Mahabharata (7 Vols), London, 1952-59.
4. P. Olivelle (ed. & trans.), Manu's Code of Law: A Critical Edition and Translation of the Manava- Dharamashastra, OUP, New Delhi, 2006.
5. H.P. Shastri (trans.), Ramayana of Valmiki (3 Vols), London, 1952-59.
6. H.H. Wilson (trans.), Ṛgveda samhitā (6 Vols), Bangalore Printing & Publishing Co., Bangalore, 1946.
7. A.S. Altekar, State and Government in Ancient India, Motilal Banarsidas, Delhi,

2001.

8. S.K. Belvalkar, Mahabharata: Santi Parvam, 1954.
9. D.R. Bhandarkar, Some Aspects of Ancient Indian Hindu Polity, Banaras Hindu University.
10. J.R. Gharpure, Teaching of Dharmashastra, Lucknow University, 1956.
11. U.N. Ghosal, A History of Indian Political Ideas, Bombay, 1959.
12. K.P. Jayaswal, Hindu Polity, Bangalore, 1967.
13. N. S Law, Aspect of Ancient Indian Polity, Calcutta, 1960.
14. S.R. Maheshwari, Local Government in India, Orient Longman, New Delhi,

Additional Resources:

1. Beni Prasad, Theory of Government in Ancient India, Allahabad, 1968.
2. B.A. Saletore, Ancient Indian Political Thought, and Institutions, Bombay, 1963.
3. R. S. Sharma, Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, Delhi, 1996.
4. K.N. Sinha, Sovereignty in Ancient Indian Polity, London,1938.
5. V.P. Verma, Studies in Hindu Political Thought and its Metaphysical Foundations, Delhi, 1954.

Examination scheme and mode: Subject to directions from the Examination Branch/University of Delhi from time to time.