

Courses for B.A. (Programme) Political Science

Paper I - Introduction to Political Theory (62321101)

Core Course - (CC) Credit:6

Course Objective

This course aims to introduce certain key aspects of conceptual analysis in political theory and the skills required to engage in debates surrounding the application of the concepts.

Course Learning Outcomes

After completing this course students will be able to:

- Understand the nature and relevance of Political Theory
- Understand different concepts like liberty, equality, justice and rights.
- Reflect upon some of the important debates in Political Theory

Unit 1

What is Political Theory and what is its relevance?

Unit 2

Concepts: Liberty, Equality, Justice, Rights

Unit 3

Debates in Political Theory:

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

References

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.

Additional Resources:

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, र. 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.

Teaching Learning Process

The teaching-learning process for this course would involve class lectures, class discussion, class presentation, debates on contemporary issues and relevant cases. Teaching would also involve methods like power point and film screening.

Assessment Methods

Students will be assessed at different stages during the course learning process. After completing every unit they will be asked to take part in group discussions on any one important event or issue relevant for that unit. They will also do one presentation and one assignment.

Keywords

Political Theory, Liberty, Equality, Justice, Rights, Protective Discrimination, Censorship