

**Four Year Undergraduate Programme
Subject: Political Science**

Semester	Paper
1st Semester	POL 01-01: Introduction to Political Theory (Core)
2nd Semester	POL 02-01: Indian Govt. & Politics (Core)
3rd Semester	POL 03-01: Perspectives on Public Administration (Core)
4th Semester	POL 04-01: Understanding International Relations (Compulsory) POL 04-02: Political Theory: Concepts and Debates (Compulsory) POL 04-03: Political Processes in India (Compulsory) POL 04-04: Public Policy and Administration in India (Compulsory)
5th Semester	POL 05-01: Western Political Philosophy (Compulsory) POL 05-02: Indian Political Thought (Compulsory) POL 05-03a: United Nations and Global Conflict (Optional) POL 05-03b: Optional Comparative Government and Politics (Optional) POL 05-04a: Introduction to India's Foreign Policy (Optional) POL 05-04b: Understanding South Asia (Optional)
6th Semester	POL 06-01: Human Rights: Traditions and Debates (Compulsory) POL 06-02: Feminism: Theory and Practice (Compulsory) POL 06-03a: Politics in Northeast India (Optional) POL 06-03b: Conflict and Peace Building (Optional) POL 06-04a: Rural Local Governance: Theory & Practice (Optional) POL 06-04b: Urban Local Governance: Theory & Practice (Optional)


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 Deptt. of Political Science
 P.B. College, Gauripur

Four Year Undergraduate Programme

Subject: Political Science

Semester: 1st Semester

Course Name: POL 01-01: Introduction to Political Theory (Core)

Existing Base Syllabus:

Course Level: 100

Theory Credit: 60

Practical Credit: 0

No. of Required Classes: 60

No. of Contact Classes: 60

No. of Non-Contact Classes: 0

Particulars of Course Designer:

Dr. Barasa Deka, Gauhati University, barasajnu@gmail.com

Dr. Joanna Mahjebeen, Gauhati University, jmajebeen@gmail.com

Dr. Pallabi Medhi, Guwahati College, Guwahati, pallabiamal@gmail.com

Course Objectives:

- This course aims to introduce the students to the idea of political theory, its history and approaches, and an assessment of its critical and contemporary trends.
- It is also designed to introduce the basic concepts of political theory.
- The course also attempts reconcile political theory and practice through reflections on the ideas and practices related to democracy.

Course Outcomes:

- After completing the course students will be better equipped to understand the key concepts in political theory and various related conceptual categories.
- They will also be in a better position to engage in application of concepts and understand the limitations.


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- It will also help in developing critical thinking regarding the functioning of the political system in relation to the context the students are situated in.
- The foundation for understanding the contemporary political developments would also be laid down by the course.

Unit I: Understanding Political Theory

- a. What is Politics?
- b. What is Political Theory?
- c. Relevance of political theory

Unit II: Approaches and Contemporary Perspectives on Political Theory

- a. Liberal
- b. Marxist
- c. Feminist

Unit III: Concepts in Political Theory

- a. State
- b. Rights
- c. Liberty
- d. Equality
- e. Justice

Unit IV: Understanding Democracy

- a. Concept of Democracy
- b. Types of democracy
- c. Critique of democracy

Readings List:

Unit-I

Bellamy, R. (1993) 'Introduction: The Demise and Rise of Political Theory', in Bellamy, R. (ed.) *Theories and Concepts of Politics*. New York: Manchester University Press, pp. 1-14.

Bhargava, R. (2008) 'What is Political Theory', in Bhargava, R and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 2-16.

Bhargava, R, 'Why Do We Need Political Theory', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 17-36.

Mukherjee, S. and Ramaswami, S. (1999). What is Political Theory in Mukherjee, S. and Ramaswami, S. *A History of Political Thought: Plato to Marx*. New Delhi, Prentice Hall of India Pvt. Ltd. Pp. 1-8

Mukhopadhyay, A.K. (2019), *An Introduction to Political Theory*, New Delhi: Sage Publications

Sabine, George H. (1939) What is A Political Theory? in the *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 1, No 1. Pp. 1-16

Unit-II

Asirvatham, E & K.K. Misra (1998), *Political Theory*, Upper India Publishing, pp. 20-39.

Callinicos, A. (2004) "Marxism and Politics" in Leftwich, A. (ed.) *What is Politics?* Cambridge, Polity Press, pp.53-65

Corrin, Chris(1999), *Feminist perspectives on Politics*, Routledge, London and New York, pp. 1-18.

Gauba, O.P (2009), *An Introduction to Political Theory*, Macmillan Publishers India Ltd, pp. 80-93.

Glaser, D. (1995) 'Normative Theory', in Marsh, D. and Stoker, G. (eds.) *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. London: Macmillan, pp. 21-40.

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

Sanders, D. (1995) 'Behavioral Analysis', in Marsh, D. and Stoker, G. (eds.) *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. London: Macmillan, pp. 58-75.

Squires, J. (2004) 'Politics Beyond Boundaries: A Feminist Perspective' in Leftwich, A. (ed.) *What is Politics?* Cambridge, Polity Press, pp. 119-134

Unit-III

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

Das, S. (2008) 'State', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 170-187.

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

Shorten, A. (2008) 'Nation and State', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 33-55.

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

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

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

Unit-IV

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

Arblaster, A. (1994) *Democracy*. (2nd Edition). Buckingham: Open University Press.

Christiano, Thomas. (2008) 'Democracy', in McKinnon, Catriona. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 80-96.

Sen, A. (2003) 'Freedom Favours Development,' in Dahl, R., Shapiro, I. and Cheibub, A. J. (eds.) *The Democracy Sourcebook*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, pp. 444-446.

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.

Srinivasan, J. (2008) 'Democracy', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 106-128.

Four Year Undergraduate Programme

Subject: Political Science

Semester: 2nd Semester

Course Name: POL 02-01: Indian Government and Politics (Core)

Existing Base Syllabus:

Course Level: 200

Theory Credit: 60

Practical Credit: 0

No. of Required Classes: 60

No. of Contact Classes: 60

No. of Non-Contact Classes: 0

Particulars of Course Designer:

Dr. Vikas Tripathi, Gauhati University, vikastripathi@gauhati.ac.in

Dr. Sumana Das, B. Baruah College, Guwahati, sumana_ghyl@yahoo.com

Course Objectives:

- The paper aims at introducing students to the nature, emergence and functioning of the Constitution of India.
- The paper seeks to impart learning on the significance of the idea of citizenship and rights and how has constitution incorporated them and what does it reflect on the nature of Indian constitution.
- The paper intends to make students understand the normative basis of key public institutions in India and the nature of their functioning.
- The paper aims to explore the distinctiveness of Indian federalism and how does the emergence of new institutions like NITI Aayog reflect on the changing character of federalism in India.

Course Outcomes:

- Students will develop an understanding of the legacy of national movement and the principles that shaped the formation and functioning of the Constituent Assembly of India.

It will help in developing critical thinking about role of ideas and norms in shaping democracy in India. It will make them understand what is constitution and how has the working of contributed to the consolidation of democracy in India.

- Students will be able to make sense of the institutional design, challenges and resilience marking key public institutions in India.
- The students will develop basic understanding on the constitutional provisions related to the legislative procedures in Indian Parliament. It will enhance their understanding related to the procedures, practices related to the passage of a bill from drafting to its passage by the Parliament.
- It will help students in developing a nuanced understanding of the importance of states in Indian politics and how the changing character of federalism in India made states the key player.

Unit-I: Indian Constitution: Emergence and Distinctiveness

- a. Constituent Assembly: Historical Backdrop and Formation
- b. Basic Features of Indian Constitution
- c. Amendment of Constitution: Nature and Procedure

Unit-II: Citizenship and Rights

- a. Citizenship: Meaning and Provisions in the Constitution
- b. Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties
- c. Directive Principles of State Policy

Unit-III: Institutions

- a. The Executive: President, Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers, Bureaucracy in India
- b. The Parliament: Composition, Legislative Procedure in Parliament, Question of Decline
- c. The Judiciary: The Supreme Court, Appointment of Judges, Independence, Judicial Activism

Unit-IV: Federalism and Local Government

- a. Nature of Federal System: Constitutional Provisions, Distinctive Features, NITI Ayog and Changing Character
- b. Integration of Princely States in India, Union and Its Territory
- c. Panchayati Raj Institutions in India: Emergence, Composition, Powers and Functions, Actual Working

Reading List:

Unit-I

Austin, Granville. 1966. The Indian constitution: cornerstone of a nation. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Austin, Granville. 1999. Working a democratic constitution: the Indian experience. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Bhargava, Rajeev. 2008. Politics and ethics of the Indian constitution. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Bhatia, Gautam. 2019. The Transformative Constitution: a radical biography in nine acts. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Chaube, Shibani Kinkar. 2000. Constituent assembly of India: springboard of revolution. New Delhi: Manohar Publishers & Distributors.

Choudhry, Sujit, Madhav Khosla & Pratap Bhanu Mehta. 2016. The Oxford Handbook of the Indian Constitution. New Delhi : Oxford University Press.

Hasan, Zoya, Eswaran Sridharan, and R. Sudarshan. 2004. India's living constitution: ideas, practices, controversies. Delhi: Permanent Black.

Indian Politics, Contemporary Issues and concerns, M.P Singh and Rekha Saxena, PHI pvt. Ltd, New Delhi, 2008

Khosla, Madhav. 2020. India's founding moment: the constitution of a most surprising democracy. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Pylee, M V. 1967. Constitutional History of India. Bombay : Asia Publishing House

Unit-II

Austin, Granville. 1966. The Indian constitution: cornerstone of a nation. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Basu, Durga Das. 2022. Introduction to the Constitution of India. New Delhi : Lexis Nexis

Bhargava, Rajeev. 2008. Politics and ethics of the Indian constitution. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Choudhry, Sujit, Madhav Khosla & Pratap Bhanu Mehta. 2016. The Oxford Handbook of the Indian Constitution. New Delhi : Oxford University Press

Khosla, Madhav. 2020. India's founding moment: the constitution of a most surprising democracy. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Unit-III

Agrawal, Arun. 2005. "The Indian Parliament" in Devesh Kapur and Pratap Bhanu Mehta (ed.) Public Institutions in India: Performance and Design, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 77-104.

Burra, Arudra. 2010. "The Indian Civil Service and the nationalist movement: neutrality, politics and continuity". Commonwealth & Comparative Politics. 48 (4): 404-432.

Choudhry, Sujit, Madhav Khosla & Pratap Bhanu Mehta. 2016. *The Oxford Handbook of the Indian Constitution*. New Delhi : Oxford University Press

Das, SK. 2013. *The Civil Services of India*. New Delhi : Oxford University Press.

Hewitt, Vernon and Shirin M. Rai. 2010. "Parliament," in Niraja Gopal Jayal and Pratap Bhanu Mehta(ed.). *The Oxford companion to politics in India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp.28-42.

M.P Singh and Rekha Saxena. 2008. *Indian Politics: Contemporary Issues and concerns*, New Delhi, PHI Pvt. Ltd.

Khare, H. 2003. "Prime Minister and Parliament: Redefining accountability in the age of coalition government," in Ajay K. Mehra, and G.W. Kueck, (ed.). *The Indian Parliament: A Comparative Perspective*. New Delhi: Konark, pp.350- 368.

Krishna, Anirudh. 2010. "Continuity and change: the Indian administrative service 30 years ago and today". *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*. 48 (4): 433-444.

Manor, James. 2015. "The Presidency," in Devesh Kapur , Pratap Bhanu Mehta and Milan Vaishnav (ed.). *Rethinking Public Institutions in India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Mehta, Pratap Bhanu. 2007. "The rise of judicial sovereignty," *Journal of Democracy* 18 (2), pp.70-83.

Saxena, N. C. 2010. "The IAS officer - predator or victim?" *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*. 48 (4): 445-456.

Shankar, B. L., and Valerian Rodrigues. 2010. *The Indian Parliament: a democracy at work*. Oxford:Oxford University Press.

Shankar, Shylashri. 2009. *Scaling justice: India's Supreme Court, anti-terror laws, and social rights*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Verma, Rahul and Vikas Tripathi. 2013. *Making Sense of the House: Explaining the Decline of the Indian Parliament amidst Democratization*, *Studies in Indian Politics*, 1(2), pp.153-177.

Unit-IV

Arora Balveer. 2015. "Foundations and Development of Indian Federalism: Lessons Learnt and Unlearnt", *Yojana*, pp. 22-26.

Arora, Balveer. et. al. 2013. "Indian federalism," in K.C. Suri (ed.) *ICSSR Research Surveys and Explorations: Political Science: Indian Democracy, Volume 2*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Indian Politics, Contemporary Issues and Concerns, M.P Singh and Rekha Saxena, PHI pvt. Ltd, New Delhi, 2008.

Krishna, Anirudh. 2010. "Local Politics", in: Mehta, Pratap B. and Niraja Gopal Jayal (eds.). *The Oxford Companion to Politics in India*. New Delhi et al.: Oxford University Press, pp.299-316

Kumar, Rajiv. 2021. "NITI Aayog: Redefining Federalism", *Yojana*, pp. 8-11.

Manor, James. 2010. "Local Governance", in: Mehta, Pratap B. and Niraja Gopal Jayal (eds.). *The Oxford Companion to Politics in India*. New Delhi et al.: Oxford University Press, pp.61-79.

Pehl Malte and Subtra Mitra. 2010. "Federalism", in: Mehta, Pratap B. and Niraja Gopal Jayal (eds.). *The Oxford Companion to Politics in India*. New Delhi et al.: Oxford University Press, pp.43-60.

Rao, M Govind. 2016. *Role and Functions of NITI Aayog*, *Economic and Political Weekly*, pp. 13-16, Vol. 50 No. 4