

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

NAHATA JNMS MAHAVIDYALAYA

WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

North 24 Parganas, W.B.

B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE

Based on National Education Policy, 2020 (NEP 2020) for the 2025
4 Year Degree UG Programme (Honours /Honours with Research)

Semester - I (MAJOR)

Course Code: PLSDSC101T Course Title: Political Theory: Concepts Core Course:

Credit - 5, FM - 100

GENDER:



ENVIRONMENT:



ETHICS :



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Course Content

Course Details – Major Paper

Semester I

Major/DS 1 (PLSDSC101T)

Political Theory: Concepts

Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1

1. Meaning of the Political-What is Political Theory ?-Political Theory and Political Practice.
2. Sovereignty-Monism and Pluralism.
3. Nation and State-Social Contract Theory.
4. Power and Authority- Types and Linkages.

Unit 2

5. Rights, Law, Liberty, Equality: Meanings and Inter-relationships.
6. Justice-Theory of Rawls.
7. Democracy-Liberal, Deliberative and Participatory Models of Democracy (David Held).
8. Citizenship-Nature and Types-Multicultural Citizenship.

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Course Content
Course Details – Major Paper
Semester II
Major /DS 2 (PLSDSC202T)
Indian Constitution and Government
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1

1. Evolution of the Indian Constitution: Constitutional Assembly– Preamble.
2. Citizenship—**Fundamental Rights** and **Duties**—Directive Principles of State Policy.
3. Indian Federalism: Union–State Relations.
4. **Constitutional Amendment.**

Unit 2

5. Union Executive: President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Council of Ministers—election, position, functions (Emergency Powers and relationship between Prime Minister and President).
6. Union Legislature: Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha: Organisation, Functions – Lawmaking procedure, Parliamentary Procedure, Privileges, Committee system—Speaker.
7. Government in States: Governor, Chief Minister, and Council of Ministers: position and functions -- State Legislature: composition and functions.
8. Judiciary: Supreme Court and High Courts: composition and functions – Judicial activism – **Judicial Review** (with reference to recent debate between Legislature and Judiciary).

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Course Content

**Course Details – Major Paper
Semester III
Major/DS 3 (PLSDSC303T)
Political Theory: Approaches
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)**

Unit 1

1. Normative, Legal-Institutional, Behavioural, Post-Behavioural.
2. Systems Analysis , Structural Functionalism.
3. Idealism(Ancient Greek and German), Social Contract Theory (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau).
4. Liberalism (Bentham, J.S Mill), Social Welfarism (Amartya Sen), Neo-Liberalism (Nozick).

Unit 2

5. Marxian Approach (I): Dialectical Materialism and Historical Materialism -Base and Superstructure.
6. Marxian Approach(II): Class and Class Struggle-Surplus Value, Alienation.
7. Marxian Approach(III): State and its Relative Autonomy –Revolution (Contributions of Lenin and Mao Zedong).
8. Decline and Resurgence of Political Theory.

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Course Content

**Course Details – Major Paper
Semester IV**

Major /DS 4 (PLSDSC404T)

Politics in India: Structures and Processes.

Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1

1. Party System in India : Features and Trends.
2. Coalition Politics in India.
3. Major national political parties in India: Ideologies and Programmes.
4. Electoral Process in India: Election Commission—Composition,Function,Role—
Electoral Reforms.

Unit 2

5. Issues in Indian Politics:(a) Religion (b) Caste (c) Tribe (d) Region (e) Language
6. Role of (a) Business groups (b) Working classes (c) Peasants.
7. New Social Movements: (a) Women, (b) Environment, (c) Human Rights.
8. Role of Media in Indian Politics—Print and Social Media.

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Course Content
Course Details – Major Paper
Semester IV
Major /DS 5 (PLSDSC405T)
Comparative Government and Politics.
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1

1. Evolution and Scope of Comparative Politics: An Overview - Distinction between Comparative Government and Comparative Politics.
2. Approaches to the study of Comparative Politics: Institutional Approach (Systems Approach and Structural-Functional Approach), New Institutionalism, Political Economy
3. Classification of Political Systems: Liberal and Socialist Political Systems.
4. Key features of major political systems: Conventions and Rule of Law (UK), Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances, Judicial Review (USA), Referendum and Initiative (Switzerland).

Unit 2

5. Executive in the UK, USA, France – Comparative Study of (a) French and American Presidency (b) British and French cabinet systems.
6. Legislature in UK, USA and PRC – Composition and Functions of the Legislative Chambers – Committee system in UK and USA.
7. Judiciary in the UK, USA and PRC (with focus on the Procuratorate).
8. Party System in the UK, USA, and PRC: Features and Roles – Federalism: USA and Russia (comparative study).

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Course Content
Course Details – Major Paper
Semester IV
Major /DS 6 (PLSDSC406T)
International Relations: Theory and Approaches
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1:

1. Understanding International Relations (IR): Evolution of IR as an Academic Discipline.
2. Major theories in IR: (a) Classical Realism and Neo-Realism, (b) Liberal and Neo-liberal Theories (c) Marxist-Dependency Theory (AG Frank) and World Systems Theory (Immanuel Wallenstein), (d) Feminist Theory (Ann Tickner).
3. Eurocentrism and perspective from the Global South.
4. Key Concepts: National Power - Balance of Power: Unipolarity, Bipolarity and Multipolarity - Collective Security – Diplomacy.

Unit 2:

5. Major institutions of Global Governance: World Bank, IMF, WTO–An Overview.
6. Regional Economic and Security Organizations: OPEC & NATO.
7. Regional Organizations: QUAD, SCO, BRICS –Goals and Functioning.
8. UNO: Major organs–General Assembly, Security Council and Secretariat (with focus on Secretary General) – Role of UNO in Peacekeeping.

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Course Content
Course Details – Major Paper
Semester IV
Major /DS 7 (PLSDSC407T)
Public Administration: Theory and Concepts
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1

1. Public Administration: Meaning, Significance, Nature, Scope and Evolution—Private and Public Administration
2. Theoretical Perspectives: (a) **Classical Theories** - Scientific Management (F. W. Taylor), Administrative Management (Gullick, Urwick and Fayol), Marx and Weber on Bureaucracy; (b) **Neo-Classical Theories – Human Relations Theory (Elton Mayo), Rational Decision-Making (Herbert Simon)**
3. Contemporary Theories: (a) **Ecological Approach (Fred Riggs)** (b) Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Peter Drucker).
4. Challenges to the discipline of Public Administration: New Public Administration, Comparative Public Administration, Development Administration, and **Feminist Perspectives.**

Unit 2

5. Major Concepts in Public Administration: (a) Hierarchy (b) Unity of Command (c) Span of Control (d) Authority (e) Centralization, Decentralization and Delegation (f) Line and Staff.
6. Administrative Processes: (a) Decision making (b) Communication and Control (c) Leadership (d) Co-ordination.
7. Public Administration in the era of Globalization, Liberalization and Privatization— State versus Market debate
8. Public-Private Partnership:(a)New Public Management;(b)Public Choice Theory

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Course Content
Course Details – Major Paper
Semester V
Major /DS 8 (PLSDSC508T)
Public Administration and Public Policies in India
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1


1. Evolution of Indian Bureaucracy: (a) Colonial Legacy – Continuity and Change; (b) Civil Services in India (UPSC, SPSC)—Recruitment, Training, Role.
2. Organisation of Union Government: MO and Cabinet Secretariat.
3. Organisation of State Government: Chief Secretary, Relations between Secretariat and Directorate.
4. District Administration: District Magistrate, SDO, BDO—Local Self Government: Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporations in West Bengal—Structure and Functions (with special reference to the 73rd and 74th Amendment Act).

Unit 2

5. Administrative Planning: **NITI Aayog** and Governing Council, District Planning
6. Budget: Concept, Significance, Types, and Budget Cycle in India.
7. Financial Administration: Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee – Role of the CAG.
8. Public Policy in India: Process, Formulation, Implementation, and Evaluation.

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Course Content

**Course Details – Major Paper
Semester V**

Major /DS 9 (PLSDSC509T)

International Relations: Indian Foreign Policy

Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1

1. Making of India's Foreign Policy: Basic Determinants—Historical, Geo-Political, Economic, Domestic and Strategic.
2. Core Principles and Traditions: (a) Nonalignment (b) Panchasheel (c) India's normative commitments in global diplomacy.
3. Phases of Evolution (Key Periods):1947-1962;1962-1991;1991–2014;and post-2014 transformation.
4. India's Global Aspirations: From post-colonial statehood to emerging global power– Ideological and strategic shifts.

Unit 2

1. India's Relations with Major Powers: Post-Cold War Strategic Partnerships with Russia and the United States
2. India and its Neighbors—Bilateral Relations:(a)Pakistan (b)Nepal (c)Bangladesh (d)Sri Lanka; (e) China (PRC)—Border Disputes, Trade, and Geopolitics
3. Regional Cooperation Frameworks: Role and relevance of SAARC, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, and BBIN in India's regional diplomacy.
4. India's Engagement with Multilateral Organisations: QUAD and SCO (Overview)

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Course Content
Course Details – Major Paper
Semester V
Major /DS 10 (PLSDSC510T)
Western Political Thought - 1
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1


1. Philosophical Foundations of Politics–Political Theory and Political Philosophy
2. Plato’s Political Philosophy: (a) Theory of Justice; (b) Ideal Ruler ship—Philosopher King; (c) Communism of property and family, (d) Critique of Athenian Democracy.
3. Aristotle’s Theory of the State:(a) Concepts of Virtue and Justice;(b) Classification Of Governments; (d) Idea of Citizenship
4. Roman Law, Civic Duty, and Notions of Citizenship

Unit 2

1. Machiavelli:(a)Conceptions of virtue, morality, religion in politics; (b) Republicanism and realist statecraft (The Prince and Discourses on Livy)
2. Hobbes: Absolutist theory of sovereignty—Social Contract—Necessity of a powerful state to prevent anarchy.
3. Locke: Liberal variant of the social contract—Natural rights, property, consent—Right to dissent against unjust authority.
4. Rousseau: General Will—Participatory Democracy—Tension between individual freedom and collective sovereignty.

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Course Content
Course Details – Major Paper
Semester V
Major /DS 11 (PLSDSC511T)
Indian Political Thought - 1
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1

1. Genesis of Indian Political Thought: Key features, sources and intellectual milieu
2. Brahmanic Thought—Normative authority, Varna-based social order, dharma and governance; (b) Shramanic Thought—Egalitarian critiques, non-violence, and alternative visions of polity.
3. Ved Vyasa (Shantiparva): Raj Dharma—Duties of rulers, ethical dimensions of kingship, and just governance in the *Mahabharata*.
4. Manu: Theory of Government, Law and Justice, and the Hierarchical Ordering of Society.

Unit 2

5. Kautilya's Arthashastra: Theories of State—Saptanga model, Dandaniti (Penal policy), principles of diplomacy and strategic governance.
6. Aggannasutta (Digha Nikaya): Theory of Kingship
7. Medieval Thinkers and Political Visions: (a) Ziauddin Barani—Ideal Polity; (b) Abul Fazal: Monarchy; (c) Kabir: Syncretism.
8. Islamic and Syncretic Political Thought: An Overview

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Course Content
Course Details – Major Paper
Semester VI
Major /DS 12 (PLSDSC612T)
Political Sociology
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1


1. Political Sociology: Emergence and Relevance, Nature, and Scope.
2. Political Culture: Meaning, Components, Division, Role in Political Stability, Change, and Conflict.
3. Political Socialisation: Meaning, Agents, and Implications.
4. Political Participation: Concept and types; Electorate and electoral behaviour (with special reference to the Indian context).

Unit 2

1. Political Communication: Meaning, Types, Medium and Model.
2. Political Development, Modernization and Social Change : Concepts and Theories
3. Social Stratification and Politics: Caste, Tribe, Class, and Religion.
4. Military and Politics: Conditions and Modes of Intervention.

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Course Content

**Course Details – Major Paper
Semester VI
Major /DS 13 (PLSDSC613T)
Gender and Politics
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)**

Unit 1

1. Understanding Gender—What is feminism? (a) Distinction between Sex and Gender; (b) Biologism vs. Social Constructivism; (c) Equality vs. Difference debates; (d) Public-Private divide in political theory
2. Patriarchy and Gender Norms: Structures of patriarchal power, Cultural constructions of masculinity and femininity, Intersectionality and systems of domination
3. Classical Feminist Theories: (a) Liberal feminism—rights and equality; (b) Socialist and Marxist feminism—Labour, Class, and Gender; (c) Radical feminism—patriarchy, sexuality, and Power
4. Contemporary Feminist Traditions: (a) Black Feminism—Race, Gender, resistance; (b) Cyber Feminism—technology, bodies, and digital activism.

Unit 2

5. Social Reform Movements and the Women's Question (Indian context):An Overview
6. Post-independence Women's Movement in India: Shifts in feminist activism and Demands—Legal reforms, grassroots mobilisations, and policy outcomes
7. Gender and Family: Gendered access to consumption, entitlement, and property
8. Emerging Perspectives:(a) Gender and Development—critique of main stream Development Paradigms; (b) Going beyond the binary—LGBTQ++ (Queer Politics)

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Course Content

**Course Details – Major Paper
Semester VI
Major /DS 14 (PLSDSC614T)
Western Political Thought - 2
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)**

Unit 1

1. J. Bentham: Utilitarianism.
2. John Stuart Mill: Liberty, suffrage and subjection of women.
3. Hegel: Civil Society and State.
4. Mary Wellstone craft: *Vindication of Rights of Women*; Betty Friedan: *The Feminine Mystique*

Unit 2

5. Utopian Socialism and Scientific Socialism: An overview
6. Varieties of non-Marxist Socialism: Fabianism, Syndicalism, Guild Socialism.
7. Anarchism: Basic characteristics
8. Debates within Communism: (a) Lenin and Rosa Luxemburg debate, (b) Lenin and Trotsky debate.

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Course Content

Course Details – Major Paper

Semester VI

Major /DS 15 (PLSDSC615T)

Indian Political Thought – 2

Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1

1. Rammohan Roy: Rights, Liberalism, Justice.
2. Pandita Ramabai: Gender and Social Justice.
3. Vivekananda: Socialism and Ideal Society.
4. Gandhi: Philosophical Anarchist, Concept of Property and Trusteeship.

Unit 2

5. Ambedkar: Caste System and Social Justice, Gandhi and Ambedkar debate.
6. Tagore: Nationalism and Internationalism.
7. Iqbal: Nationalism and Community; Savarkar's: Hindutva; Jinnah: Two-Nation Theory
8. Subhas Chandra Bose: Socialism; M.N.Roy: Radical Humanism.

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Course Content
Course Details – Major Paper
Semester VII
Major /DS 16 (PLSDSC 716T)
Research Methodology in Social Science
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1

1. Foundations of Political Science Research: Defining Research—Importance of Research Methodology
2. Dimensions of Research: (a) Use—Basic and Applied; (b) Purpose: Explorative, Descriptive, Exploratory; (c) Technique—Quantitative Research vs. Qualitative Research
3. Understanding the Research Process: Basic Steps (Quantitative and Qualitative)
4. Basic Concepts: Concepts, Variables, Theory, Assumption, Proposition, Hypothesis, Units of Analysis, Scope and Levels of Research, Time dimension, Inductive and Deductive Research.

Unit 2

5. Data Analysis—Basic Statistics: (a) Measures of Central Tendency: Mean, Median and Mode.
6. How to Write a Research Proposal and a Research Report/Dissertation?
7. Research Methods: Survey Research (Quantitative), Case and Historical Methods (Qualitative)
8. Referencing: (a) Formats—In Text Citation, Endnotes, Footnotes, References, Bibliography; (b) Styles—APA, Chicago, MLA.

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Course Content
Course Details – Major Paper
Semester VII
Major /DS 17 (PLSDSC 717T)
Contemporary Debates in Politics
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1

1. Major Schools of Thought: (a) Liberalism, Marxism, Communitarianism; (b) Libertarianism and Neo-Marxism; (c) Postmodernism and Critical Theory — (Brief Overview)
2. Justice and Equality: (a) Rawlsian and post-Rawlsian debates; (b) Capabilities Approach and Global Justice
3. Power, Knowledge and Post-Structuralism: (a) Foucault on power and discourse (b) Orientalism and critiques of Western thought

Unit 2

4. Democracy and Its Discontents:(a) Crisis of representation and populism;(b) Democracy in digital and global contexts
5. Globalization and Sovereignty:(a) Cosmopolitanism vs. Nationalism; (b)Global governance and transnational activism; (c) Migration and Multicultural Citizenship
6. Identity and Recognition: (a) Politics of difference and group rights; (b) Debates on Secularism

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Course Content

Course Details – Major Paper

Semester VIII

Major /DS 18 (PLSDSC 818T /PLSRES801T (H.w.R)

International Relations: Global Politics

Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1

1. The Cold War:(a) Evolution and Key Phases; (b) Collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of bipolarity; (c) Post-Cold War era—Emergence of new power Centres
2. Europe in Transition: (a) European Union—Formation and Evolution; (b) Brexit—causes, process, and implications for regional integration
3. The Global South in International Relations: (a) Rise of the Global South—Nonaligned Movement, Pan-Africanism; (b) G-20 and emerging Southern voices in global governance
4. West Asia and the Palestine Question: An Overview

Unit 2

1. Globalization: (a) Concept and Dimensions—economic, political, cultural; (b) Contemporary Issues—poverty and development; (c) Concept of Human Security
2. Environmental Politics and Global Cooperation: (a) International Environmental regimes; (b) Key treaties, summits and sustainability initiatives
3. Terrorism in Global Politics: (a) Definitions and Typologies of Terrorism; (b) Historical evolution and global impact on security frameworks
4. Nuclear Politics and Disarmament: (a) Understanding nuclear proliferation and its types; (b) Global efforts and treaties—NPT, CTBT, NSG and disarmament challenges.

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Course Content
Course Details – Major Paper
Semester VIII
Major / DS19 (PLSDSC819T)
Understanding Governance
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1

1. Governance: meaning, Genesis, Evolution and Importance.
2. Perspectives on Local Governance: John Stuart Mill and Gandhi—idea of Gram Swaraj.
3. Idea of Good Governance: Relations with development and democracy; Corporate Social Responsibility.
4. Government and Governance: Role of State, Market and Civil Society since 1990s (with some focus on India).

Unit 2

5. Major issues in Governance: People's Participation and Public Service Delivery.
6. Citizen and Governance Interface: Functions of Lokpal and Lokayukt; Right to Information (RTI), Citizens' Charter.
7. E-Governance: Issues and Opportunities; 11th Report of 2nd ARC, National E-Governance Plan, Recent Initiatives in India & West Bengal.
8. Green Governance: Human-Environment Interaction, Sustainable Human Development.

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Course Content

**Course Details – Major Paper
Semester VIII
Major / DS20 (PLSDSC820T)
Human Rights and Politics
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)**

Unit 1

1. Foundations of Human Rights: (a) Idea of Natural Rights –universal, inherent, inalienable and moral rights (b) Universalism v. Cultural Relativism.
2. Historical Evolution of Human Rights—Different Generations of Human Rights—UN Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
3. Human Rights and Political Ideologies: Liberalism, Socialism, and Conservatism (from human rights’ perspectives).
4. International Frameworks for Human Rights: (a) ICCPR and ICESCR (1966); (b) Role of UNHRC and ICJ (c) Regional regimes: ECHR, ACHPR, IACHR.

Unit 2

1. Indian Constitutional Visions and Human Rights (a) Fundamental Rights,(b) Directive Principles of State Policy, (c) Fundamental Duties
2. Indian Judiciary and Human Rights: (a) Public Interest Litigation (PIL), (b) Police Violation of Human Rights and (c) Role of civil society in protection and promotion of Human Rights.
3. Human Rights Enforcement in India:(a)The Protection of Human Rights Act,1993 (b) NHRC, (c) SHRC
4. Challenges in Human Rights: (a) Caste Prejudice and Discrimination; (b) Ethnic Violence; (c) Child Abuse and Child Labour; (d) Domestic Violence and Offenses against Women; (e) Human Trafficking

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Course Content
Course Details – Major Paper
Semester VIII
Major / DS21 (PLSDSC821T)
Environment and Politics
Credit: 5 (4 + 1)

Unit 1

1. Introduction to Environmental Politics: A Global History (Ramchandra Guha)– Waves of Environmentalism
2. Concept of Sustainability: (a) Sustainable Development—SDG;(b) Ecological Modernization; (c) Earth Democracy (Vandana Shiva)
3. Gandhi and Marxian Environment
4. Green Political Theory: Deep Ecology; Social Ecology; Eco-Socialism; Ecological Postmodernism; and Eco-Feminism.

Unit 2

5. Key Issues and Policies: Climate Change and Global Warming
6. Actors and Institutions in Global Environmental Politics: (a) States, (b) International Organisations, (c) Corporations (d) Transnational Actors.
7. Environmental Ethics: Philosophy, Ecology and other species; Environmental Justice: pollution, Poverty, Marginalised communities
8. Environmental Movements and Policy Frameworks in India: (a) Forests and Protected Areas: Chipko Movement, Appiko Movement, Silent Valley Movement, Kancha Gachibowli Movement (b) Dams: Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA); (c) Marine Resources: Fish workers' Movement in Kerala.