



UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

Discipline	POLITICAL SCIENCE				
Course Code	UK4DSCPOS201				
Course Title	Concepts in Political Theory				
Type of Course	DSC				
Semester	4				
Academic Level	200-299				
Course Details	Credit	Lecture per week	Tutorial per week	Practical per week	Total Hours/Week
	4	4 hours	-	-	4
Pre-requisites	1. 2.				
Course Summary	The primary objective of this course is to familiarize students with key concepts in political theory that shape contemporary political discourse. Many of these concepts are contested, but a comprehensive understanding of these debates is essential for analyzing the contemporary society of any region. With this goal in mind, the course aims to help students develop their own independent views and ideas on the politics of their respective regions as well as the world at large.				

Detailed Syllabus:

Module	Unit	Content	Hrs
I	Understanding Political Theory		8
	1	Meaning, Nature and Scope of Political Theory	
	2	Need and Relevance of Political Theory- Types of Political theory	
	3	Differentiating Political Theory and Political Thought	
II	Approaches to Political Theory		12
	4	Traditional Approaches - Historical, Philosophical, Institutional, and Legal	
	5	Behavioral and Post-Behavioral Approaches in Political Science	
	6	Critical Perspectives- Marxist, Neo-Marxist and Post-Marxist	
III	Key Concepts		16
	7	Power: Nature and Meaning, Alternative Notions of Power- Michel Foucault	
	8	Freedom- Meaning- Negative and Positive Freedom (Isaiah Berlin)	
	9	Justice – Distributive and Procedural Justice as Fairness (John Rawls) Justice as Freedom (Amartya Sen) Communitarian, Libertarian, Subaltern and Feminist Critique of Justice	
	10	Origin and Evolution of State	
IV	State and Sovereignty		14
	11	Elements of State	
	12	Types of State- Liberal, Neo-liberal, Post-colonial and Marxist	



	13	State and Civil Society	
	14	Sovereignty- Meaning, Monistic, Legal and Pluralist views	
V		Following the first four modules, students will engage in a guided group discussion on the topic 'Is Political Theory Still Relevant in Today's World?', during which they will critically reflect on the practical application of political theory in modern society, connect it to current events, and share insights through group presentations, thereby fostering analytical thinking and real-world engagement.	10

Essential Readings

- Berlin, I. (1984). Two Concepts of Liberty. In M. Sandel (Ed.), *Liberalism and Its Critics* (pp. 15-36). NYU Press.
- Bhargava, R. (2008). What is political theory. In R. Bhargava & A. Acharya (Eds.), *Political Theory: An introduction*. Pearson Longman.
- Brecht, A. (1959). *The Foundation of 20th Century Political Thought*. Princeton University Press.
- Foucault, M. (1980). Truth and Power. In C. Gordon (Ed.), *Power/Knowledge* (pp. 109-133). Pantheon Books.
- Gauba, O. P. (2009). *An Introduction to Political theory*. McMillan Publishers.
- Heywood, A. (2015). *Political Theory: An Introduction*. Macmillan Education Limited.
- Hawkesworth, M., & Kogan, M. (Eds.). (2004). *Encyclopedia of Government and Politics* (2nd ed.). Routledge.
- Kymlicka, W. (2005). *Contemporary Political Philosophy* (Indian Edition). Oxford University Press.
- Mukhopadhyay, A. K. (2020). *An Introduction to Political Theory*. Sage Publications India Pvt Ltd.
- Vinod, M. J., & Deshpande, M. (2013). *Contemporary Political Theory*. Prentice Hall India Private Limited.

Additional Readings:

- Abbas, H., Hovyeda, & Kumar, R. (2012). *Political Theory*. Pearson.
- Farrelly, C. P. (2004). *Contemporary Political Theory: A Reader*. Sage.
- Foucault, M. (1982). The Subject and Power. *Critical Inquiry*, 8(4), 777-795.
- Held, D. (2000). *Political Theory and State*. Polity Press.
- Held, D. (Ed.). (1991). *Political Theory Today*. Polity Press.
- Lukes, S. (2005). *Power: A Radical View*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Pettit, P. (Ed.). (1991). *Contemporary Political Theory*. Macmillan.
- Rawls, J. (1971). *A Theory of Justice*. Harvard University Press.
- Sabine, G. H. (1939). Introducing Political Theory. *Journal of Politics*, 1(1), 1-16.

Course Outcomes

No.	Upon completion of the course the graduate will be able to	Cognitive Level	PSO addressed
CO-1	Understand the meaning, nature, need and significance of political theory and appreciate differences between thought and theory.	U,An	PSO-1,2
CO-2	Explore various approaches and understand different means to observe, explain and analyse political reality	U, An, E	PSO 3
CO-3	Gain an in depth understanding of the emergence of the state in political theory and Thought	Ap, An, E	PSO 4



CO-4	Discuss and critically analyse the concepts used in theorisation and to learn how to apply them in theorizing life-individual and social experiences	Ap, E, C	PSO 4, 6
CO-5	Analyze the key concepts and prominent schools of thoughts in political theory related to justice and the state.	Ap, C	PSO7

R-Remember, U-Understand, Ap-Apply, An-Analyse, E-Evaluate, C-Create

Note: 1 or 2 COs/module

Name of the Course: Concepts in Political Theory

Credits: 4:0:0 (Lecture: Tutorial: Practical)

CO No.	CO	PO/PSO	Cognitive Level	Knowledge Category	Lecture (L)/Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)
CO 1	Understand the meaning, nature, need and significance of political theory and appreciate differences between thought and theory.	PO1/PSO-1 and 2	U,An	F, C	L	-
CO 2	Explore various approaches and understand different means to observe, explain and analyse political reality	P0 2, PSO 3	U, An, E	C	L	-
CO 3	Gain an in depth understanding of the emergence of the state in political theory and thought.	PO3 , PSO 4	Ap, An, E	C	L	-
CO 4	Discuss and critically analyse the concepts used in theorisation and to learn how to apply them in theorizing life-individual and social experiences.	PO8, PSO 4,6	Ap, E, C	P	L	-
CO 5	Analyze the key concepts and prominent schools of thoughts in political theory related to justice and the state.	PO2 PSO1	Ap, C	P	L	-

F-Factual, C- Conceptual, P-Procedural, M-Metacognitive

Mapping of COs with PSOs and POs :

	PSO1	PSO2	PSO3	PSO4	PS O5	PSO6	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PO7	PO8
CO 1	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



CO 2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
CO 3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
CO 4	-	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
CO 5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Correlation Levels:

Level	Correlation
-	Nil
1	Slightly / Low
2	Moderate / Medium
3	Substantial / High

Assessment Rubrics:

- Quiz / Assignment/ Quiz/ Discussion / Seminar
- Midterm Exam
- Programming Assignments
- Final Exam

Mapping of COs to Assessment Rubrics:

	Internal Exam	Assignment	Project Evaluation	End Semester Examinations
CO 1	✓	✓	-----	✓
CO 2	✓	✓	-----	✓
CO 3	✓	✓	-----	✓
CO 4	✓	✓	-----	✓
CO 5		✓		✓

