Programme Name: B.A. (Hons./Pass) Political Science

The Under Graduate syllabus of Political Science under the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) has two Ability Enhancement Compulsory Courses, fourteen Discipline Specific Core Courses (DSCs), four Discipline Specific Elective (DSE) courses, two Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC), and Four Generic Elective (GE) courses spread over six semesters. The CCs, DSEs and SECs are only offered to students enrolled in the Political Science programme while the GE courses are offered to students from other programmes. One SEC course has to chosen from the list of two in the syllabus and the other is chosen by the College.

Marks per paper - Midterm: 20 marks, End term: 80 marks, Total – 100 marks

Credit per paper – 6 (05Theory + 01 Tutorial)

Programme Outcomes:

A graduate in political science is easily attracted towards political questions he/she comes across in daily life and strives to solve them by applying political theories and concepts. These questions and issues are not only concerned with national politics, they also involve international issues and events. The courses one learns teaches him/her how to raise questions and the methods of solving them. Training in political science encourages one towards a systematic reflection on issues and to use comparative perspectives. A political science graduate can differentiate between the discipline of political science from others, yet at the same time recognizes the inter-disciplinary approaches in studies and real life. A student learns about hypothesis, the importance of counterfactuals, limitations of ideological positions, advantage of critical thinking, and the need for objective analysis. He/she also learns the dominance of Eurocentrism in the discipline and realizes the need for non-Western perspectives. In course of a students’s progression from one semester to another, he/she learns to write research papers through the practice of writing term papers and how to make coherent presentations. He/she also learns how to write dissertation (as per the revised syllabus adopted from the session 2019-20).

After completing all the course during the six semester, mainly the core courses such as Political theory, International Relations, Western Political Thought, Comparative politics, Public Administration, Indian Political Thought, and Indian politics, a graduate enabled by multiple skill set and political knowledge base seeks useful employments in diverse sectors such as academics, bureaucracy, journalism, law, social work, government agencies and private research organisations, management, and marketing.
Course Outcomes:

Discipline Specific Core/ Core Courses: 14

1. Understanding Political Theory

This paper introduces the students to the idea of political theory, its history and approaches, and assessment of its critical and contemporary trends.

2. Constitutional Government and Democracy in India

This course acquaints students with the constitutional design of the state structures and institutions, and their actual working over time.

3. Political Theory-Concepts and Debates

This course will help students to be familiarized with the basic normative concepts in political theory and to learn how we make use of these concepts in organizing our social living, thereby shaping their analytical skills in the process.

4. Political Process in India

At the end of the course students would:

- understand close relations between social and economic relations and the political process in India.
- know the challenges emanating from factors such as caste, class, gender and religion and make sense of the changing nature of the Indian state.
- Make sense of the debate around reservation in India
- understand how Indians vote and changing party system

5. Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics

- At the end of the course, students would:
- Be familiarized with the basic concepts and approaches to the study of comparative politics.
• know a range of political systems, culture and their political economy.
• Understand the historical contexts of modern governments

6. Perspectives on Public Administration

By studying this course, students would:
• be able to understand the discipline and know how it is different from private administration.
• Know the evolution of the discipline and its changing nature
• Be able to analyze processes of leadership and conflict-management
• learns about major contemporary approaches in public administration including feminist perspectives.

7. Perspectives on International Relations and World History

By reading this course, the students would be able to:
• Understand the historical evolution of the state system
• Analyze international relations in a more rigorous way by applying major theoretical perspectives
• To go beyond eurocentrism and reflect on perspectives from South
• To develop analytical skills to explore international relations.

8. Political Processes and Institutions in Comparative Perspective

The paper will equip students with an in-depth understanding of different political systems and regime types. Students would be able to contrast unitary and federal, democratic and authoritarian systems. It will help students to develop analytical skills to reflect institutional structures and their functioning such as party systems, electoral systems. It will provide insight into the process of evolution of nation state in the context of West and post-colonial societies. Students will develop insights into the process of democratization in post-colonial, post-authoritarian and post-communist societies.
9. Public Policy and Administration in India

As a major sub-discipline of public administration, the students through this course are introduced to theoretical perspectives on public policy, especially in the Indian context. By the end of studying this paper, students will become familiar with details of public policy adopted in India. They will recognize the importance of decentralization in governance in India, the process of budget, Social Welfare policies, etc. Above all, students come to know the mechanisms of public grievance redressal.

10. Global Politics

This course introduces students to the key debates on the meaning and nature of globalization by addressing its political, economic, social, cultural and technological dimensions. In keeping with the most important debates within the globalization discourse, it imparts an understanding of the working of the world economy, its anchors and resistances offered by global social movements while analyzing the changing nature of relationship between the state and transnational actors and networks. The course also offers insights into key contemporary global issues such as the proliferation of nuclear weapons, ecological issues, international terrorism, and human security before concluding with a debate on the phenomenon of global governance.

11. Classical Political Philosophy

This course goes back to Greek antiquity and familiarizes students with the manner in which the political questions were first posed. Machiavelli comes as an interlude inaugurating modern politics followed by Hobbes and Locke, Rousseau, Marx. This is a basic foundation course for students.

12. Indian Political Thought – I

This course introduces the specific elements of Indian Political Thought spanning over two millennia. The basic focus of study is on individual thinkers whose ideas are however framed by specific themes. The course as a whole is meant to provide a sense of the broad streams of Indian thought while encouraging a specific knowledge of individual thinkers and texts. Selected extracts from some original texts are also given to discuss in class. The list of Reference books is meant for teachers as well as the more interested students.

13. Modern Political Philosophy

Students will be exposed to the manner in which the questions of politics have been posed in terms that have implications for larger questions of thought and existence. Contemporary political philosophy and debates are introduced to the students here.
14. Indian Political Thought – II

Based on the study of individual thinkers, the course introduces a wide span of thinkers and themes that define the modernity of Indian political thought. The objective is to study general themes that have been produced by thinkers from varied social and temporal contexts. It is expected that at the end of the course the students will be able to think about issues and debates in contemporary India from multiple vantage points including its historical significance in the Indian tradition.

Discipline Specific Elective (DSE): 04

1. Citizenship in a Globalizing World

Students will learn through this course the historical, normative and empirical understanding of the idea of citizenship, and thereby its evolution. They will learn how citizenship faces challenges from the forces of globalization and how it needs to accommodate diversity with the rise of multiculturalism.

2. Human Rights in a Comparative Perspective

This course attempts to build an understanding of human rights among students through a study of specific issues in a comparative perspective. It is important for students to see how debates on human rights have taken distinct forms historically and in the contemporary world.

3. Development Process and Social Movements in Contemporary India

This course enables students to know about development policies and planning in India since independence. They will understand particularly the impact of development strategies on industrial and agricultural sphere. Students will also learn about various social movements in response to the development policies adopted by successive governments in India.

4. India’s Foreign Policy in a Globalizing world

This course’s objective is to teach students the domestic sources and the structural constraints on the genesis, evolution and practice of India’s foreign policy. The course will enhance students’ understanding of India’s strategies in South Asia, its engagement with China, USA and Russia. Students will develop knowledge about India’s negotiation strategy in dealing with global trade, environment and security regimes.
1. Nationalism in India

Students will be able to learn through this course about the historical trajectory and different theoretical perspectives on the emergence and development of nationalism in India. They will also know about various social movements during this time. This course will teach them about the history of partition and the moment of independence that followed.

2. Gandhi and the Contemporary World

Locating Gandhi in a global frame, the course seeks to elaborate Gandhian thought and examine its practical implications. It will introduce students to key instances of Gandhi's continuing influence right up to the contemporary period and enable them to critically evaluate his legacy.

3. Understanding Ambedkar

This course is broadly intended to introduce Ambedkar's ideas and their relevance in contemporary India, by looking beyond caste. Ambedkar's philosophical contributions towards Indian economy and class question, sociological interpretations on religion, gender, caste and cultural issues; ideas on politics such as concepts of nation, state, democracy, law and constitutionalism are to be pedagogically interrogated and interpreted.

4. Governance: Issues and Challenges

The students are acquainted through this course about concepts and different dimensions of governance highlighting the major debates in contemporary times. The students learn about the best practices in India on good governance.

Skill Enhancement Course: Any One.

1. Democratic Awareness with Legal Literacy

This course acquaints students with the structure and manner of functioning of the legal system in India.

2. Legislative Practice and Procedures

To acquaint students broadly with the legislative process in India at various levels, introduce them to the requirements of peoples' representatives and provide elementary skills to be part of a legislative support team and expose them to real life legislative work. These will be to
understand complex policy issues, draft new legislation, track and analyse ongoing bills, make speeches and floor statements, write articles and press releases, attend legislative meetings, conduct meetings with various stakeholders, monitor media and public developments, manage constituent relations and handle inter-office communications. It will also deepen their understanding and appreciation of the political process and indicate the possibilities of making it work for democracy.