



SECOND SEMESTER 2019-2020

Course Handout Part II

Date: 06-01-2020

In addition to part I (General Handout for all courses appended to the TIMETABLE) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course No. : GS F211
Course Title : Modern Political Concepts
Instructor-in-charge : Lavanya Suresh

Course description: Students will gain a working understanding of the concepts of State, Rights, Democracy, Modern political ideologies, Contemporary political issues

Objectives: The main purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the language of politics. Here, language is understood as the vocabulary and rhetoric of politics. As languages change over time, it is pertinent to understand the historical context(s) from within which the language(s) of politics emerged as well as those in which these continue to evolve.

Scope: This is an introductory course in Politics and no prior knowledge of the discipline is expected from students registering for this course. Students are encouraged to move beyond the text-book, and study sources as well as research studies by eminent scholars at first hand. Politics is also about communicating with those in society. Hence, students are expected to not only participate in class discussions in an informed manner but also to generate and moderate discussions on political issues/problems that may have captivated their interest.

Text Book (TB): Catriona McKinnon, *Issues in political theory*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, 2012.

Reference Books (RB):

1. Bhargava Rajeev and Ashok Acharya, eds., *Political Theory: An Introduction*, (Delhi: Pearson Education, 2008). (The instruction in class will also rely on this book.)
2. Craig, Edward, ed., *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 10 vols., (London & New York: Routledge, 1998).

Course Plan: Lecture No	Learning Outcomes	Topic(s)	Chapter in TB & RB
1-4	To gain an overview of the study of Politics	What is political theory? Political authority	TB "Introduction" and ch.1; RB (1) ch 1
5-12	To understand the historical evolution of the Modern State	Introduction to Nation, State and Sovereignty	TB ch. 2; RB (1) chs. 10, 11



13-22	To develop an understanding of rights	Liberty, equality and human rights	TB chs. 5, 7, 8,10; RB (1) chs. 3, 4, 6, 8
22-23	To examine the basis of a democratic society	Democracy: Formal and substantive	TB ch. 4; RB (1) ch. 7
24-29	To analyse the early origins of liberalism	Liberalism and Capitalism	RB (1) chs. 13, 15
30-34	To explain the ideological reactions to the industrial revolution	Socialism and Communism	RB (1) ch. 16; and additional readings
35-38	To examine the idea of secularism in the rhetoric of politics	Secularism	RB (1) ch. 18
39-41	To discuss feminist thought	Gender	TB ch.11; and RB (1) ch. 14

Evaluation

Component	Duration	Weighting	Date and Time	Nature of Component
Mid-Sem	90 min	30	6/3 1.30 -3.00 PM	open
Assignment	50 min			
a) Assignment 1		15		open
b) Assignment 2		15		open
Comprehensive Exam	3 hours	40	13/05 FN	open

Chamber Consultation Hour: To be announced in the class.

Notices: Notices concerning the course will be displayed on **CMS only**.

Make-up Policy: Make-up component will be allowed provided there would be documentary support to prove the authenticity of the case.

Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy: Academic honesty and integrity are to be maintained by all the students throughout the semester and no type of academic dishonesty is acceptable.

Lavanya Suresh
Instructorincharge

