



**Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani**  
Hyderabad Campus

**FIRST SEMESTER 2023-2024**

**Course Handout Part II**

Date: 11-08-2023

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* : Dr. Lavanya Suresh

**Scope and Objective of the Course:**

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):**

1. Catriona McKinnon, *Issues in political theory*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, 2012.

**Reference Books (RB):** (The instruction in class will also rely on these books)

1. Bhargava Rajeev and Ashok Acharya, eds., 2008. *Political Theory: An Introduction*, Delhi: Pearson Education.
2. Heywood, A., 2021. *Political Ideologies: An Introduction*. London: Macmillan Education/Red Global Press.
3. Heywood, A., 2013. *Politics*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
4. Festenstein, M. and Kenny, M., eds., 2005. *Political Ideologies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
5. Kymlicka, W., 2002. *Contemporary Political Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
6. Goodin, R. E., Pettit, P. and Pogge, T., 2007. *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*. Malden, Mass.; Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. Part II.



**Course Plan:**

Lecture No.	Learning objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter in TB & RB
1-4	To gain an overview of the study of Politics	Nature and Scope of Political Science, Political Ideologies	TB “Introduction” and ch.1; RB (3) ch 1 RB (2) ch.1
5-12	To understand the historical evolution of the Modern State	Emergence and basis of the state: Nation, State, Sovereignty	TB ch. 2; RB (1) chs. 10, 11 RB (3) ch.3
13-20	To develop an understanding of rights and duties	Rights and duties: Liberty, equality, rights	TB chs. 5, 7, 8,10; RB (1) chs. 3, 4, 6, 8
21-23	To examine the basis of a democratic society	Different forms of government: Democracy - Formal and substantive	TB ch. 4; RB (1) ch. 7 RB (3) ch. 4
24-27	To analyse the early origins of liberalism	Liberalism and Capitalism	RB (1) chs. 13, 15 RB (2) ch. 2
28-32	To explain the ideological reactions to the industrial revolution	Socialism, Communism, Maoism	RB (1) ch. 16 RB (2) ch. 4
33-37	To understand political ideologies	Anarchism, Fascism, Radicalism / Fundamentalism	RB (2) chs. 5, 7, 12
38-39	To examine the idea of secularism in the rhetoric of politics	Secularisms	RB (1) ch. 18
40-41	To understand one of the defining political ideas of India	Gandhism	Ref. material

**Evaluation Scheme:**

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Assignments	TBA	30	TBA	Open Book
Mid-semester Test	As per the timetable	30	10/10 - 2.00 - 3.30PM	Closed Book
Comprehensive Examination	As per the timetable	40	11/12 FN	Open Book

**Chamber Consultation Hour:** Will be announced on CMS.

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



**Make-up Policy:** Make-up component will be allowed provided there is documentary support to prove the authenticity of the case. In granting make-up, the decision of the instructor-in-charge will be final.

**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.

Dr. Lavanya Suresh  
**INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE**

