

**INSTRUCTION DIVISION  
FIRST SEMESTER 2020-2021**

**COURSE HANDOUT**

**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**Course No. :** GS F211

**Course Title:** Modern Political Concepts

**Instructor:** Solano Da Silva (IC)

**Online Code:** j5zxxhx

**1. Scope and Objective:**

The course will introduce students to some salient political concepts equipping them with an analytical toolkit to understand political phenomena. It is also intended that students become aware of how ‘political’ ideas have developed and have shaped the world we live in.

**2. Text Book:**

- Heywood, A. (2000) *Key Concepts in Politics*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

**Reference Materials:**

- Tansey, S. D. (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.) *Politics: The Basics*. London: Routledge.
- Bhargava, R. & Acharya, A. (Eds.) (2008) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson.
- Goodwin, Barbara (2014) *Using Political Ideas* (6<sup>th</sup> Edition), Sussex: Wiley.
- Zalta, E. N. *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, The Metaphysics Research Lab Center for the Study of Language and Information Stanford University Stanford, CA URL: <http://plato.stanford.edu/>

**Instructions:** (1) *Before each lecture...* students are expected to have read the basic text from Heywood (2000) – which is usually 2 pages – and to supplement the same with at least one reading from either Tansey (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.) or Bhargava & Acharya (2008) – pages numbers are clearly specified. (2) *Students are encouraged to...* develop note-making and essay writing skills. (3) *From previous semesters...* it was found that students who regularly attended the classes and made their own notes did well in the examinations and assignments.

**3. Course Plan:**

No of Lectures	Topics to be Covered	Readings	
		Basic	Further
A) Introduction to the study of Politics			
Objectives: To provide a broad background about what the study of politics entails, how do approach its study and how this has changed over time.			
2	A1) What is modernity?	YouTube: BBC: Story of Science (Part-I)	Bhargava (p. 21)
2	A2) Why study political concepts?	Heywood (pp. 3-8)	Tansey (pp. 65-67); Bhargava (pp. 5-8)

1	A3) What is the political? What does the study of politics involve?	Heywood (pp.33-35)	Tansey (pp. 1-7); Bhargava (pp. 14-16)
<b>B) Descriptive Concepts</b>			
Objective: To discuss concepts which are useful to <i>describe</i> and analyse significant political entities and processes.			
2	B1) Power	Heywood (pp. 35-37)	Bhargava (pp. 148-157); Tansey (pp. 3-7)
2	B2) Authority	Heywood (pp. 15-16)	Tansey (pp. 54-57); Bhargava (pp.152-154)
2	B3) State	Heywood (pp. 39-42)	Bhargava (pp. 170-186)
2	B4) Government & Governance	Heywood (pp. 19-21)	
2	B5) Nation	Heywood (pp. 251-254)	Tansey (pp. 107-110)
2	B6) Civil Society	Heywood (pp. 17-19)	Bhargava (pp. 188-204)
2	B7) Political regimes	Heywood (pp. 184-185; 166-167; 170-172; 169-170)	Tansey (pp. 136-168)
<b>C) Political Values</b>			
Objectives: To examine important political principles/ideas that have motivated political action.			
2	C1) Liberty/Freedom	Heywood (pp. 129-131)	Tansey (pp. 64-65); Bhargava (pp. 40-57)
2	C2) Equality	Heywood (pp. 128-129)	Tansey (pp. 62-64); Bhargava (pp. 58-72)
2	C3) Justice	Heywood (pp. 134-136)	Bhargava (pp. 57-60)
2	C4) Rights	Heywood (pp. 147-149 & 131-133)	Tansey (pp. 61-62); Bhargava (pp. 88-104)
2	C5) Secularism	Bhargava (pp. 274-297)	
<b>D) Political Ideologies</b>			
Objectives: To take up salient political doctrines for discussion.			
2	D1) Liberalism	Heywood (pp. 60-63)	Bhargava (pp. 236-242) Tansey (pp. 89-92)
2	D2) Conservatism	Heywood (pp. 52-54)	Tansey (pp. 92-95)
2	D3) Socialism	Heywood (pp. 75-77)	Bhargava (pp. 244-256)
2	D4) Anarchism	Heywood (pp. 45-47)	Tansey (pp. 52-54)
2	D5) Feminism	Heywood (pp. 58-60)	Tansey (pp. 86-89); Bhargava (pp. 224-233)
1	D6) Right and Left	Heywood (pp.27-28)	Tansey (pp. 71-81)
<b>40</b>			

**4. Evaluation scheme:**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Weight-age (%)</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>
Test 1	30-40 min	10	10 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Test 2	30-40 min	10	9 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Test 3	30-40 min	10	10 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Group Assignments	Assignment 1	20	TBC
	Assignment 2	20	TBC
Comprehensive Exam	2 hrs.	30	12 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2020

**Note:** The tests and the comprehensive examination are open book exams where *only handwritten* notes will be permitted. Both the assignments are take-home assignments.

**5. Consolation:** Only with prior appointment via e-mail [solano@goa.bits-pilani.ac.in](mailto:solano@goa.bits-pilani.ac.in)

**6. Notices:** Notices shall be displayed in the course notice board (Quanta & Google Classroom).

**7. Make-up Policy:** Make-up will be granted only on genuine grounds and if prior permission is taken.