

Sido Kanhu Murmu University, Dumka

Department of Political Science

Code – MN-I A

Full Marks-100

Credits-4(60Lectures)

**An Introduction to Political Theory**

**Course Objective:**

The course has been designed to introduce key concepts in politics to the students to sharpen their understanding of political discourses and the ability to make the scientific enquiry into the political phenomenon and political questions. Diverse traditions and approaches have been included in the scheme of teaching to make understanding comprehensive and insightful. Contemporary debates on key concepts like sovereignty, liberty, equality, democracy, and justice allow the students to understand the expanding horizons of discourses in the discipline.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- a. Students will be able to learn key concepts needed to understand the political phenomenon.
- b. They will come to know about the role and functions of Political theory.
- c. They will learn what is power and how does it operate in society and politics.
- d. They will be able to explain the debates on the procedural and distributive theories of justice.
- e. They will come to understand and explain different theories and contemporary debates in democracy.

**Unit I:**

- a. Political Theory: Nature, Significance & its Relevance
- b. Origin and Development of State System

**Unit II:**

- c. Power and Authority

**Unit III:**

- d. Sovereignty: Monism and Pluralism

**Unit IV:**

- e. Liberty: Meaning, Positive and Negative Liberty
- f. Equality: Meaning, Types,

**Unit V:**

- g. Justice : Meaning, Types, Procedural and Distributive Justice

**Unit VI:**

- h. Democracy: Meaning and Growth, Prerequisites of Democracy
- i. Democracy's Third Wave (S.P. Huntington); Prospects of democracy in the world

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### Suggested Readings

1. Agarwal N.N, "Principles of Political Science", S.Chand & Co, New Delhi
2. Bhargava ,R and Acharya (eds.), Political Theory :An Introduction, Pearson Longman, New Delhi
3. David Held., 'Political Theory and Modern State' ,Polity, London, 1994
4. Gyan Singh Sandhu., 'Political Theory', Delhi University, 1988
5. McKinnon, Catriona.(eds.) 'Issues in Political theory', Oxford University Press, New York
6. O.P.Gauba., An Introduction to Political Theory, MacMillan, New Delhi
7. Sen, A. (2003) 'Freedom Favours Development,' in Dahl, R., Shapiro, I. and Cheibub, A. J. (eds.)  
The Democracy Sourcebook. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press
8. Shorten, A. (2008) 'Nation and State', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) Issues in Political Theory, New York:  
Oxford University Press.
9. S.P.Verma., 'Modern Political Theory', Vikas , New Delhi

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