

Course title: Political Thinkers  
Course No.: Pol. Sc. Ed. 416  
Nature of the course: Theory  
Level: B. Ed. Four Year  
Year: First

Full marks: 100  
Pass marks: 35  
Periods per week: 6  
Total periods: 150  
Time per period: 55 minutes

### 1. Course Description

This is a theoretical course designed for those who take political science as a major subject in four years B.Ed programme. It includes the selected political thoughts of Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, Lenin and Kautilya. It also deals with the characteristics of the medieval political thoughts.

### 2. General Objectives

The General objectives of this course are as follows:

- To familiarize the students with nature of the political different thoughts of political thinkers.
- To acquaint them with the political thinkers' views on the origin, nature, purpose and functions of state.
- To provide broader knowledge regarding specific objectives and concept of government, sovereignty, law and liberty according to different political thinkers.
- To enable the students in evaluating the contributions of political thinkers for the development of political thought

### 3. Specific Objectives and Contents

Specific objectives	Contents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain the classes in the ideal state.</li><li>• Define platonic justice with reference to the current views of justice of that time.</li><li>• Explain the concept of philosopher king</li><li>• Discuss the theory of education.</li><li>• Explain the family and property in communism.</li><li>• Explain Plato's second best state.</li></ul>	<p><b>Unit I: Plato</b> (18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.1 Ideal state<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.1.1 Classes in the ideal state</li><li>1.1.2 Justice</li><li>1.1.3 Philosopher king</li><li>1.1.4 Education</li><li>1.1.5 Communism: Family and property</li></ul></li><li>1.2 The second best state.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain Aristotle's method.</li><li>• State Aristotle's views on the origin, nature and purpose of state.</li><li>• Explain family and property according to Aristotle.</li><li>• State Aristotle's concept of citizenship.</li><li>• Explain Aristotle's view on slavery system.</li><li>• Define constitution.</li></ul>	<p><b>Unit II: Aristotle</b> (18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2.1 Aristotle's method</li><li>2.2 State<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2.2.1 Origin</li><li>2.2.2 Nature</li><li>2.2.3 Purpose</li></ul></li><li>2.3 Family and property</li><li>2.4 Citizenship</li><li>2.5 Slavery system</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the classification of the constitution.</li> <li>Define revolution.</li> <li>List the causes of revolution.</li> <li>Explain the ideals of state.</li> </ul>	<p>2.6 Constitution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.6.1 Meaning and Classification</li> <li>2.6.2 Classification</li> </ul> <p>2.7 Revolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.7.1 Definition</li> <li>2.7.2 Causes</li> </ul> <p>2.8 Ideal state</p>	<p>2.6 Constitution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.6.1 Meaning and Classification</li> <li>2.6.2 Classification</li> </ul> <p>2.7 Revolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.7.1 Definition</li> <li>2.7.2 Causes</li> </ul> <p>2.8 Ideal state</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the characteristics of the medieval political thought.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unit III: Medieval Political Thought (8)</b></p> <p>3.1 Characteristics</p>	<p><b>Unit III: Medieval Political Thought (8)</b></p> <p>3.1 Characteristics</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain Machiavelli as a product of Machiavelli time.</li> <li>Explain the method of</li> <li>Explain the nature of man and state the motives which impel him to action.</li> <li>State Machiavelli's view on morality and religion.</li> <li>Explain Machiavelli's concept of monarchy and republic.</li> <li>Evaluate the place of Machiavelli in the history of political thought.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unit IV: Machiavelli (14)</b></p> <p>4.1 Machiavelli as a product of the environment</p> <p>4.2 Machiavelli's method</p> <p>4.3 Theory of human motive</p> <p>4.4 Morality and religion</p> <p>4.5 Monarchy</p> <p>4.6 Republic</p> <p>4.7 Machiavelli's place in the history of political thought</p>	<p><b>Unit IV: Machiavelli (14)</b></p> <p>4.1 Machiavelli as a product of the environment</p> <p>4.2 Machiavelli's method</p> <p>4.3 Theory of human motive</p> <p>4.4 Morality and religion</p> <p>4.5 Monarchy</p> <p>4.6 Republic</p> <p>4.7 Machiavelli's place in the history of political thought</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State the 'scientific' materialism of Hobbes.</li> <li>Explain Hobbes' view on human nature.</li> <li>Explain the laws of nature mentioned by Hobbes.</li> <li>Describe the state of nature.</li> <li>Explain the social contract according to Hobbes.</li> <li>Discuss Hobbes' view on state and sovereignty.</li> <li>Evaluate Hobbes' place in the history of political thought.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unit V: Thomas Hobbes (14)</b></p> <p>5.1 Scientific materialism of Hobbes</p> <p>5.2 Human nature</p> <p>5.3 The laws of nature</p> <p>5.4 The state of nature</p> <p>5.5 The social contract</p> <p>5.6 State and sovereignty</p> <p>5.7 Hobbes' place in the history of political thought.</p>	<p><b>Unit V: Thomas Hobbes (14)</b></p> <p>5.1 Scientific materialism of Hobbes</p> <p>5.2 Human nature</p> <p>5.3 The laws of nature</p> <p>5.4 The state of nature</p> <p>5.5 The social contract</p> <p>5.6 State and sovereignty</p> <p>5.7 Hobbes' place in the history of political thought.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the state of nature.</li> <li>Explain the laws of nature.</li> <li>Explain the social contract according to John Locke.</li> <li>Explain property and other natural rights.</li> <li>State the purpose and functions of government.</li> <li>State the limits of the functions of government.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unit VI: John Locke (14)</b></p> <p>6.1 The state of nature</p> <p>6.2 The laws of nature</p> <p>6.3 The social contract</p> <p>6.4 Property and other natural rights</p> <p>6.5 The purpose and functions of government</p> <p>6.6 The limits of the functions of government</p>	<p><b>Unit VI: John Locke (14)</b></p> <p>6.1 The state of nature</p> <p>6.2 The laws of nature</p> <p>6.3 The social contract</p> <p>6.4 Property and other natural rights</p> <p>6.5 The purpose and functions of government</p> <p>6.6 The limits of the functions of government</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the method employed by Montesquieu.</li> <li>State Montesquieu views about laws.</li> <li>Explain the forms of state.</li> <li>Describe the causes of revolutions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unit VII: Montesquieu (10)</b></p> <p>7.1 The method of Montesquieu</p> <p>7.2 Laws</p> <p>7.3 Forms of state</p> <p>7.4 Causes of revolutions</p> <p>7.5 Individual liberty</p>	<p><b>Unit VII: Montesquieu (10)</b></p> <p>7.1 The method of Montesquieu</p> <p>7.2 Laws</p> <p>7.3 Forms of state</p> <p>7.4 Causes of revolutions</p> <p>7.5 Individual liberty</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the individual liberty.</li> <li>• Explain the concept of the separation of powers.</li> </ul>	7.6 Separation of powers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain Rousseau's idea of human nature.</li> <li>• Describe the state of nature.</li> <li>• Explain the social contract according to Rousseau.</li> <li>• Explain Rousseau's theory of the general will.</li> </ul>	<b>Unit VIII: Rousseau (14)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.1 Idea of nature</li> <li>8.2 The state of nature</li> <li>8.3 The social contract</li> <li>8.4 General will</li> </ul>
4) of the history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss Mill's concept of individual liberty.</li> <li>• Explain Mill's views on state and government.</li> </ul>	<b>Unit IX: John Stuart Mill (10)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9.1 Individual liberty</li> <li>9.2 State and government</li> </ul>
) Hobbes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze Karl Marx's dialectical materialism.</li> <li>• Explain Marx's materialist interpretation of history.</li> <li>• Explain the concept of surplus value.</li> <li>• Explain the concept of class struggle.</li> <li>• Explain the contributions of Lenin to Marxism.</li> </ul>	<b>Unit X: Karl Marx (12)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10.1 Dialectical materialism</li> <li>10.2 Materialist interpretation of history</li> <li>10.3 Surplus value</li> <li>10.4 Class struggle</li> </ul> <b>Unit XI: Lenin (6)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11.1 Contributions of Lenin to Marxism.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain Kautily's saptang theory.</li> <li>• State Kautily's concept of king.</li> <li>• Explain education for the king according to Kautilya.</li> <li>• Describe Kautilya's concept of inter-state-relationship.</li> </ul>	<b>Unit XII: Kautilya (12)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12.1 Saptang theory</li> <li>12.2 King</li> <li>12.3 Education</li> <li>12.4 Inter-state relationship</li> </ul>

*Note: The figures in the parentheses indicate the approximate periods for the respective units.*

#### 4. Instructional Techniques

Because of the theoretical nature of the course, teacher-centered instructional techniques will be mostly used in teaching learning process. The teacher will adopt the following methods/techniques.

##### 4.1 General Instructional Techniques

The teacher can employ following the general instructional techniques as per the nature of unit-wise contents

- Lecture and illustration
- Discussion and Demonstration

##### 4.2 Specific Instructional Techniques

- Inquiry and question answer.
- Individual and Group work/project method.
- Report writing and classroom presentation

## **5. Evaluation**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the class test, classroom participation, presentation of the reports and other practical activities. The scores obtained of the class test will be used only for the feedback purpose. The annual examination will be held by the Office of the Controller of Examinations. The type and number of questions to be asked in the annual examination are mentioned below:

Types of questions	Total questions to be asked	Number of questions to be answered and marks allocated	Total marks
Group A: Multiple choice items	20 questions	20 x 1 mark	20
Group B: Short answer questions	8 with 3 'or' questions	8 x 7 marks	56
Group C: Long answer questions	2 with 1 'or' question	2 x 12 marks	24

## **6. Recommended Books and Reference Books**

### **Recommended Books**

- Barker, E. (1990). *Greek political theory*. London: Methuen and Co. Ltd. (**For unit I**)
- Rangarajan, L.N. (2003). Kautily *the arthashastra*. New Delhi: Penguin Book India (P) Ltd. (**For unit XII**)
- Sabine, G.H. (1973). *A history of political theory. (4th Edi)*. New Delhi: Oxford and IBH Publishing Co. Ltd. Revised by Thomas London Thorson. (**For units I to X**)
- Suda, J. P. (1969). *History of political thought*. meerut: Jaya Prakas Nath and Co. (**For units I – III unit vol II for unit IV – VIII vol III for Unit IX- X Vol IV for unit XI**)