POLITICAL SCIENCE (HONOURS)
SYLLABUS UNDER RESTRUCTURED CURRICULUM
(As approved by the Board of Studies)
w.e.f. July 2013

SEMESTER – I

Paper I - Political Theory: Traditional and Modern
Module: I
1. Nature and scope of politics and Political Science; distinction between politics and
government, political philosophy and Political Science.
4. Select key concepts of politics: power, sovereignty, liberty, equality, justice.

Module: II
5. Empirical political theory: Structural Functionalism, Systems Analysis, Communication
Theory.
7. Contemporary theories of the liberal state: Nozick and Rawls.
8. Communitarianism, Multiculturalism, Feminism.

Paper II - India: Constitution and Government
Module: I
1. The Constituent Assembly and its role in Constitution making; The basic principles: The
Preamble.
2. Fundamental Rights and Duties; Directive Principles of State Policy.
3. Nature of Federalism and Union-State relations.
4. Amendment procedure.

Module: II
5. Union executive: President---election, powers and position; Prime Minister and Council
of Ministers---appointment, functions, position and relationship.
6. Union legislature: Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha---composition, functions and relationship;
law-making, privileges, committee system, Speaker.
7. Government in the states: Governor, Chief Minister and Council of Ministers---position
and functions; State legislature---composition and functions.
8. Judiciary: Supreme Court and the High Courts---composition, functions and jurisdictions;
judicial activism in India.

SEMESTER – II

Paper III - Marxist Political Theory
Module: I
1. Basic principles of Dialectical and Historical Materialism.
2. Theory of class and class struggle.

Module: II
6. Marxian theory of the party: contributions of Lenin; Lenin-Rosa Luxemburg debate on
the party.
7. Gramsci’s concept of hegemony, civil society and the state.
Paper IV - Indian Politics: Institutions and Processes

Module: I
1. Electoral system; composition, functions and role of the Election Commission; politics of defections and electoral reforms.
2. Party system---features and trends; regionalisation of the party system; coalition politics in India.
3. National political parties in India: organisation and performance; state parties in India with special reference to West Bengal.
4. Select pressure groups in India---business groups and trade unions.

Module: II
5. Religion and language in Indian politics.
6. Caste and tribe in Indian politics.

SEMESTER – III

Paper V - Comparative Politics: Theories and Concepts

Module: I
1. Comparative Politics: Development, scope and purposes; distinction with Comparative Government.
2. Methods of comparison.

Module: II
4. Types of political systems: Liberal and Socialist---basic features; role of conventions, rule of law.
5. Key concepts: parliamentary sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial review, democratic centralism.
7. Rights of citizens (the UK, the USA); rights and duties of citizens (the PRC).

Paper VI - International Relations: Theories and Issues

Module: I
1. International Relations as an academic discipline---development, nature, scope.
2. Representative theories in International Relations: Realism, Pluralism, World Systems and Dependency theory.

Module: II
4. From Cold War to Post Cold War; bipolarity, unipolarity and changes in great power system.
5. Globalisation and its impact on international relations.
6. Politics of international economy: MNCs, IMF, World Bank, WTO.
7. Select issues in contemporary international relations: terrorism, ethnicity.
SEMESTER – IV

Paper VII - Comparative Politics: Structure and Process
Module: I
1. Executive: the UK, the USA, the PRC, France.
2. Legislature: the UK, the USA, the PRC, France.
3. Relationship between the executive and the legislature in the UK, the USA, the PRC, France.
4. Judiciary: the UK, the USA, the PRC.

Module: II
5. Unitary and Federal systems: cases of federalism—the USA and Russia.
7. Political parties: features and role of party systems in the UK, the USA, the PRC.
8. Interest groups: Roles and performance in the UK and the USA.

Paper VIII - International Relations: Foreign Policy and International Organisations
Module: I
1. Foreign policy: concept and techniques—diplomacy, war. Role of media in foreign policy.
2. Indian foreign policy: ideological foundation, leadership, geo-strategic context.
3. India’s bilateral relations with the USA, Pakistan, and the PRC.
4. Foreign policies of the USA and the PRC: ideological foundations and geo-strategic contexts.

Module: II
7. Role of regional organisations: ASEAN, SAARC, EU, BRICS, SCO.

Paper IX - Political Sociology: Key Concepts
Module: I
1. Emergence of Political Sociology—from Sociology of Politics to Political Sociology.
2. Power, authority, legitimacy.
3. State and civil society.
4. Political elites: Michels, Mosca, Pareto.

Module: II
5. Political culture, education and socialisation.
6. Political communication: concept and structures.
7. Political participation: concept and types; determinants of electoral behaviour.
8. Groups in politics: political parties and pressure groups.

Paper X - Optional Paper (two papers offered to students)
A. Governance, Development and Democracy
Module: I
1. The idea of governance: distinction between ‘government’ and ‘governance’. Governance, Development and Democracy as concepts and their linkages.
2. Key concepts: transparency; accountability; responsiveness; efficiency and effectiveness; equity; access.
4. Governance and participatory development: rationale; major issues.
Module: II
5. Global governance; Local governance; Global-local interface.
6. Major types of governance: economic governance; environmental governance; corporate governance; e-governance.
7. Major issues (with special reference to India): state--non-state actors; public-private partnership; public interest.
8. Role of civil society, and media (with special reference to India).

or

B. Select Texts
1. Politics (Aristotle); Nationalism (Tagore)
2. The Prince (Machiavelli); Satyagraha (Gandhi)

SEMESTER – V

Paper XI - Key Issues in Political Sociology
Module: I
1. Social stratification: class, caste, ethnicity.
2. Gender and politics: basic issues.

Module: II
4. Nationalism and state formation in the Third World and West Europe.
5. Political Development.

Paper XII - Western Political Thought: Ancient and Medieval
Module: I
1. Greek political thought: main features.
2. Plato’s views on Justice and Communism.
3. Aristotle’s views on the state, and education.
4. Roman political thought: theories of law and citizenship.

Module: II
5. Medieval thought in Europe: main features with special reference to the views of St Augustine, Marsilius of Padua.
6. St Acquinas, the Conciliar theory.
7. Jean Bodin and his concept of sovereignty.
8. Political thought in the age of Reformation.

Paper XIII Indian Political Thought
Module: I
1. Ancient Indian Political Thought: an overview of Hindu and Buddhist traditions.
3. Mahabharata: contribution to ethics of kingship.
4. Medieval political thought: politics and religion in the theory of Islamic kingship; duties and responsibilities of Muslim rulers.

Module: II
5. Rammohun Roy: beginning of modern political thought.
8. Tilak: political extremism.
Paper XIV - Key Issues in Political Science

Module: I
1. Contemporary challenges to the State System: conceptual framework
2. Identity Politics
3. Migration; diaspora

Module: II
4. Human rights: evolution and trends
5. Ecology and politics
6. ‘People Power’ and Politics

SEMESTER – VI

Paper XV - Modern Western Political Thought

Module: I
1. Machiavelli and scientific politics.
3. Locke: views on liberty, property, consent.
4. Rousseau: views on popular sovereignty and his concept of General Will.

Module: II
8. Utopian and Scientific Socialism.
10. Anarchism: an outline.

Paper XVI - Indian Political Ideas and Movement

Module: I
1. Gandhi: views on Swaraj, Satyagraha and Trusteeship.
3. Ambedkar: views on social justice.
4. Syed Ahmed Khan: views on colonial rule and modernisation.

Module: II
5. The INC: its background and foundation.
6. Partition of Bengal and the Swadeshi movement.
7. Congress in the pre-Gandhian era: Khilafat and the Non-Cooperation movement; Civil Disobedience movement.
8. Roots of communal politics: Savarkar and Hindu nationalism; Jinnah and two-nation theory.
10. Quit India movement; INA; Naval uprising.

Paper XVII - Public Administration

Module: I
2. Key concepts: Organisation; Hierarchy; Unity of Command; Span of Control; Authority and Responsibility; Centralisation and Decentralisation; Delegation; Line and Staff.
3. Major approaches: New Public Administration; Comparative Public Administration; Development Administration; New Public Management.
5. Public policy formulation and implementation: Strategies and relevance.
Module: II

6. Organisation of the Union Government: Secretariat administration; PMO; Cabinet Secretariat.
7. Organisation of the State Government: Chief Secretary and State Secretary.
8. Major institutions: Planning Commission; Comptroller and Auditor General; Public Accounts Committee.
9. Administrative Accountability and Transparency: The idea of Lokpal; Lokayukta; Right to Information.
10. Administration and politics at the local level. Local Government in India: Urban and rural organs. Overview of 73rd and 74th Amendments.