AT A GLANCE:
THE SYLLABUS FOR THE THREE-YEAR GENERAL COURSE OF STUDIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AT ST. XAVIER’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), KOLKATA.

Course I: POLITICAL THEORY
[4 modules, one in each of the first four semesters]

Course II: INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
[4 modules, one in each of the first four semesters]

Course III: COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
[4 modules, one in each of the first four semesters]

Course IV: CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES
[4 modules of which the first two will be covered in the fifth semester, and the remaining two will be covered in the sixth semester.]
SEMESTER 1

Module 1.1 POLITICAL THEORY

1. Nature and scope of Political Science
2. Approaches to the study of Political Science: Normative, Behavioural and Post-Behavioural, Marxist.
3. Theories of the State:
   (a) Contract Theory
   (b) Idealist Theory
   (c) Liberal and neo-liberal Theory
   (d) Marxist Theory
   (e) Gandhian Theory

Module 1.2 INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1. The Preamble
2. Fundamental Rights and Duties
3. Directive Principles of State Policy
4. Nature of Indian Federalism and Union-State relations.

Module 1.3 COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1. Comparative Politics – meaning, nature and purpose.
2. Types of political systems:
   (a) Liberal-democratic
   (b) Authoritarian
   (c) Socialist
3. Forms of Government:
   (a) Unitary and Federal
   (b) Parliamentary and Presidential
SEMESTER 2

Module 2.1 POLITICAL THEORY

1. Sovereignty of the state: Monistic and Pluralistic theories; Doctrine of Popular Sovereignty.
2. Democracy and Dictatorship
3. Nationalism and Internationalism
4. Fascism – meaning and nature.

Module 2.2 INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1. Union Executive:
   (a) President
   (b) Vice-President
   (c) Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers

2. Union Legislature:
   (a) Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha – organization, functions and relationship
   (b) Law-making procedure
   (c) Privileges
   (d) Committee System
   (e) Speaker

Module 2.3 COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

U.K.
1. Basic features with special reference to Conventions and Rule of Law
2. Legislature: composition and functions with special reference to the committee system and the office of the Speaker; the concept of parliamentary sovereignty.
3. Executive: composition and functions of the Cabinet with special reference to the role of the Prime Minister; the concept of Cabinet Dictatorship.
4. Role of the Monarchy
5. Party system and the role of the Opposition.
SEMESTER 3

Module 3.1 POLITICAL THEORY

1. Law: meaning, sources and nature
2. Rights, Liberty, Equality: meaning and nature; relationship between liberty and equality; safeguards of liberty; right to resistance.

Module 3.2 INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

3. The Judiciary: Supreme Court and the High Courts: composition and functions; Judicial Activism in India.
4. Amendment procedure.

Module 3.3 COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

U.S.A.
1. Basic features
2. Nature of American Federalism
3. Bill of Rights
4. Senate and the House of Representatives; Committee system
5. President and the Cabinet
6. Supreme Court and its power of judicial review
7. Party system.

SEMESTER 4

Module 4.1 POLITICAL THEORY

1. Marxism:
   (a) Dialectical and Historical Materialism
   (b) Concept of class and class struggle
   (c) Theory of revolution
2. Lenin’s theory of imperialism

Module 4.2 INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1. Nature of the Indian Party system.
2. Regionalism in India: nature, roots and types.
3. Ideologies and programmes of national political parties.
4. New Social Movements in India since the 1970s with special reference to:
   (a) Women’s Movements
   (b) Environmental Movements
   (c) Human Rights Movements.

Module 4.3 COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

P.R.C.
1. Significance of the revolution
5. The Executive: President, Premier State Council.
7. The Judicial system.

SEMMESTER 5

Course: CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES

MODULE 5.1 UNITED NATIONS:

1. Purposes and Principles
2. Major Organs - (a) General Assembly
   (b) Security Council
   (c) Secretary General
   (d) Economic and Social Council
3. U.N. and peace-keeping
4. U.N. and Human Rights
MODULE 5.2  Contemporary Issues

1. Secularism in India
2. Caste and Indian politics
3. Gender and politics
4. Ethnicity and Indian politics.

SEMESTER 6

Course: CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES

MODULE 6.1 UNION GOVERNMENT:

1. Prime Minister’s Office
2. Cabinet Secretariat and the Cabinet Secretary
3. UPSC – composition and functions
4. Recruitment and training of the Union Civil Servants.

MODULE 6.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

RURAL: 1. Zilla Parishad
2. Panchayat Samiti
3. Gram Panchayat
4. Gram Sabha and Gram Samsad
5. Representation of Women in Rural Government

URBAN: 1. Municipal Corporation
2. Mayor-in-Council
3. Role of Mayor and Deputy Mayor
4. Borough Committee and Ward Committee
5. Municipality
6. Representation of Women in Urban Government
Suggested Readings for the Modules covered in the Political Science General Course spanning six semesters:

**POLITICAL THEORY:**

Mohit Bhattacharya & Amal Ray: Political Theory- Ideas and Institutions
O. P. Gauba: An Introduction to Political Theory
Radharaman Chakroborty: Theory and Practice of International Relations
S.P. Verma: Modern Political Theory
Stalin: Dialectical and Historical Materialism
V.I. Lenin: Imperialism- the highest stage of capitalism

**INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS:**

S. L. Sikri: Indian Government and Politics
M.V. Pylee: Constitutional Government in India
J.C. Johari: Indian Government and Politics (2 Volumes)
D.D. Basu: Introduction to the Constitution of India
Subhas Kashyap: Our Constitution

**COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS:**

J.C. Johari: Major Political Systems
A.C. Kapoor & K.K. Misra: Select Constitutions
J. Harvey & S. Bather: The British Constitution
Skidmore, Carter, Tripp: American Government
Arun K. Banerjee: People’s Democracy in China

**CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES:**

Rumki Basu: United Nations
Radharaman Chakroborty: United Nations
J.C. Johari: Indian Government and Politics (2 Vols.)
S. L. Sikri: Indian Government and Politics
Asok Mukhopadhyay: Panchayat Administration in West Bengal
Asok Mukhopadhyay : Municipal Government
Shriram Maheswari : Indian Administration
Mohit Bhattacharya & Prabhat Dutta : Governing Rural India

N.B. Additional Readings will be suggested in class as and when necessary.