

B1PS230111T

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| Semester: I | |
| Programme: POLITICAL SCIENCE | |
| Course: INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS | |
| Paper code: B1PS230111T | Credits: 4 |
| Hours/week: 4 | |
| Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC: MINOR | |
| Theory / Practical / Composite: THEORY | |
| No of Modules: TWO | |

Course Overview: This course introduces students to the foundational principles, historical evolution, and theoretical underpinnings of human rights. It emphasizes the universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of rights, while exploring key debates such as the balance between rights and duties, as well as the role of international organizations in promoting human rights. Students will engage with both classical theories and contemporary international conventions to gain a holistic understanding of human rights in theory and practice.

Course Outcome:

1. **Remember:** the historical evolution and classification of human rights, including the three generations of rights.
2. **Understand:** the key theories of human rights (Natural, Legal, Utilitarian) and the relationship between rights and duties.
3. **Apply:** the role of the United Nations and its various instruments in the development of international human rights law.
4. **Analyze:** how international conventions address specific issues such as civil liberties, economic rights, gender equality, and humanitarian protection.
5. **Evaluate:** the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms and conventions in protecting rights globally.
6. **Create:** informed perspectives and reflections on human rights issues by synthesizing historical, theoretical, and international frameworks.

Prerequisites: *Basic knowledge about any prior course*

SYLLABUS

| UNIT/Module | CONTENT | HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES | CO Mapping | COGNITIVE LEVEL |
|--------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------|
| I. | 1. Evolution and historical development of Human Rights 2. Classification of Human Rights: Three generations of Rights 3. Theories of Human Rights: Natural, Legal, Utilitarian 4. Human rights and duties: - Correlation between rights and duties - Comparison between Rights-based | 26 | CO1, CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6 | K1,K2,K3,K4,K5,K6 |

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| | and Duty-based systems | | | |
| II. | 1. United Nations and Human Rights: - UN Charter and development of human rights provisions - Universal Declaration of Human Rights 2. UN Instruments on Human Rights: - ICCPR, ICESCR - CEDAW 3. International Humanitarian Law: Conventions and Protocols | 26 | CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6 | K1,K2,K3, K4, K5, K6 |

Text Books

1. R.M. Wallace, United Nations Protection of Human Rights, London: University of London, 2009.
2. Philip Alston, The United Nations and Human Rights: A Critical Appraisal, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992.
3. Andrew Clapham, Human Rights – A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Suggested readings

1. Subrata Sankar Bagchi, Expanding Horizons of Human Rights, Atlantic, 2009.
2. Sunil Deshta & Kiran Deshta, Fundamental Human Rights: The Right to Life and Personal Liberty, Deep & Deep Publications, 2003.

Evaluation

CIA 30 Marks – (mid-semester exam – 20 + 5 assignment) + 5 Attendance

End Semester 70 Marks

Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam Module:

Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam Module:

- Short Questions: 10 out of 15 (2 marks each) = 20
 - Essay Type: 1 out of 3 (15 marks each) = 15
 - Long Essay per Module: 35 marks each → Module I (35) + Module II (35) = 70
- Total = 70 (End Semester) + 30 (CIA) = 100

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

| COs | CO Description | Cognitive levels |
|------------|---|------------------|
| CO1 | Remember: the historical growth and classification of rights | K1 |
| CO2 | Understand: theories of human rights and correlation with duties | K2 |
| CO3 | Apply: the knowledge of UN instruments and mechanisms | K3 |
| CO4 | Analyze: international humanitarian law and rights conventions | K4 |

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| CO5 | Evaluate: assess effectiveness of rights mechanisms | K5 |
| CO6 | Create: reflective perspectives on contemporary human rights issues | K6 |