Semester: V	
Programme: POLITICAL SCIENCE	
Course: WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT – ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL	
Paper code: C3PS230521T	**Credits: 4**
Hours/week: 4	
Category: CORE/MDC/SEC/VAC: MAJOR	
Theory / Practical / Composite: Theory	
No of Modules: TWO	

Course Overview: The course attempts to introduce students to the basic ideas of western political thought, its genesis since the ancient Greek civilization. Students are able to trace the origins of various contemporary political ideas and practices to ancient and medieval times in the context of the western world.

The course attempts to familiarize students with the manner in which political questions were first posed and the reflections of thinkers on the ideas and practices related to state and government. Students are able to comprehend the genesis of various political concepts like state, political obligation, government, secularism and democracy.

Course Outcome:

1. **Remember-** Students become aware of the attempts on part of classical political thinkers to address tensions and problems in the context of their respective societies; they can estimate their relevance in addressing contemporary political problems.

2. **Understand-** Facilitates an understanding and appreciation of the various approaches and perceptions in political thought with the distinct perspectives of eminent thinkers on political reality. Students are able to comprehend the genesis of various political concepts and categories that originated with political thinkers down the ages.

3. **Apply-** Cultivates the ability to trace, analyze and interpret contemporary political ideas in the light of questions raised and views expressed by traditional western philosophers.

4. **Analyze-** Helps in the diagnosis of contemporary political and social problems and aids analysis of the solutions and recommendations furnished by scholars since earliest times for dealing with multifarious political problems and crises.

5.	**Evaluate-** The course enables a critical analysis of the suggestions proposed by the great minds to resolve the problems of their times. They are able to understand the elements in their recommendations that have proved precious and valuable and have stood the test of time.			
6.	**Create-** Develop comparative reflections, creative responses, or thematic projects that synthesize insights from the political thought of classical political thinkers to explore contemporary political and social problems.			

Prerequisites: *Basic knowledge about any prior course*

SYLLABUS

UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL
I.	1. Ancient Greek political thought: context and salient features 2. Plato: ideas of justice and communism 3. Aristotle: views on state and classification of governments	26	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	KI,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6
II.	4. Medieval political thought: salient features 5. Major issues of medieval political thought with special reference to St. Augustine and Marsiglio of Padua. 6. Machiavelli: major contributions	26	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	KI,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6

Text Books

1. Nelson, B.R. (1982) Western Political Thought – From Socrates to the Age of Ideology. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall
2. Russell, Bertrand (1979) A History of Western Philosophy. London: Allen & Unwin
3. Curtis, Michael (1981) The Great Political Theories – Volume 1. New York: Avon Books.

Suggested readings

4. Muschamp, David (ed) (1986), Political Thinkers. London: Macmillan
5. Mukhopadhyay, Amal (1988), Western Political Thought – From Plato to Marx. Kolkata: K.P. Bagchi & Co.
6. Rosen, Michael & Wolff, Jonathan (eds) (1999), Political Thought. New York: Oxford University Press
7. Lavine, T.Z. (1984), From Socrates to Sartre: the Philosophic Quest. New York: Bantam Books
8. Roberts, Peri & Sutch, Peter (2004), An Introduction to Political Thought – A Conceptual Toolkit. U.K.: Edinburgh University Press

Evaluation
Theory
CIA: 30 (mid-semester exam 20 + 5 assignment) +5 Attendance = 30
Semester Exam: 70

Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam Module:
Short Notes: 3 out of 5 of 5marks each (3x5=15)
Essay Type: 2 out of 4 of 10 marks each (2X10= 20) (35 marks per module)
35+35 (Module I + Module II= 70) (70+30 CIA=100)

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels
CO1	**Remember:** Students become aware of the attempts on part of classical political thinkers to address tensions and problems in the context of their respective societies; they can estimate their relevance in addressing contemporary political problems.	K1
CO2	**Understand:** Facilitates an understanding and appreciation of the various approaches and perceptions in political thought with the distinct perspectives of eminent thinkers on political reality. Students are able to comprehend the genesis of various political concepts and categories that originated with political thinkers down the ages.	K2
CO3	**Apply:** Cultivates the ability to trace, analyze and interpret contemporary political ideas in the light of questions raised and views expressed by traditional western philosophers.	K3
CO4	**Analyze:** Helps in the diagnosis of contemporary political and social problems and aids analysis of the solutions and recommendations furnished by scholars	K4

	since earliest times for dealing with multifarious political problems and crises.	
CO5	**Evaluate:** The course enables a critical analysis of the suggestions proposed by the great minds to resolve the problems of their times. They are able to understand the elements in their recommendations that have proved precious and valuable and have stood the test of time.	**K5**
CO6	**Create:** Develop comparative reflections, creative responses, or thematic projects that synthesize insights from the political thought of classical political thinkers to explore contemporary political and social problems.	**K6**