

U. G. SYLLABUS - NEP 2020
Political Science
FYUG (NEP) 1st Semester
PLS: DSM 101: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY
Full marks- 100

Units – I

Politics: Meaning and Difference with Political Science and Political Theory. Political Theory: Meaning, Nature, Scope and Relevance.

Units – II

Basic Concepts: I

Democracy: Meaning, Forms, Characteristics, Merits and Demerits, The Pre-conditions for the Success of Democracy.

Liberty: Definition, Features, Forms of Liberty; Safeguards of Liberty.

Equality: Meaning, Features, Kinds of Equality; Relation between Liberty and Equality.

Justice: Development of the Idea, Types of Justice, Rawls' Theory of Justice.

Units – III

Basic Concepts: II

Citizenship: Meaning, Features, Genesis and Development; Methods of Acquisition and Loss of Citizenship.

Rights- Meaning, Features, Kinds of Rights, Human Rights & the UNO.

State: Definition, Evolution, Relationship between State and Civil Society.

Units – IV

Debates in Political Theory: I

Is Democracy Compatible with Economic Growth? Is Censorship Justified? Grounds of Censorship and its Limits.

Units – V

Debates in Political Theory: II

Does Protective Discrimination violate Principles of Fairness? Should the State intervene in the Institution of the Family?

[VSTA] MARKS -1

1.From which language is the word 'politics 'derived? [2018]?

Ans - The word politics derived from the Greek word 'polis'.

2. Who first used the term 'politics '? [2018]

Ans- Aristotle.

3.Who regarded 'politics 'as the 'master science '?

Ans- Aristotle.

4.Who is the author of the 'politics' ?

Ans-Aristotle is the author of the 'politics.

5.Name the largest and the most influential Greek City - State?

Ans- The largest and most influential Greek city state was Athens.

6. Who said, "political science begins and ends with the state'?

Ans-J. W Garner says.

7. Who said,"political science investigate the phenomenon of government'?

Ans- John Seeley.

8. Who said,"political science treats of the foundation of the state and the principles of government?

Ans-Paul Janet.

9. Who said," political science is the study of the state in the past, the present, and the future?

Ans- Gettell .

10. Who is the author of the book "Politics is who gets what, when and how"? [2019]

Ans – Harold Lasswell.

11. Who defined politics as "the process of shaping and sharing of power"?

Ans-David Easton.

12. Who said, "Politics tries to replace fists, knives, guns, with the weapons of discussion, dialogue, debate"?

Ans -Crick.

13. Who said, "Man is a social and political animal"?

Ans -Aristotle.

14. Who said, "He who lives without society is either a god or beast"?

Ans -Aristotle.

15. Who defined politics as a process of ruling a divided society without use of violence?

Ans -Bernard Crick.

16. Who wrote In Defence of Politics?

Ans -Bernard Crick.

17. Who said, "Man by nature is a political animal"?

Ans -Aristotle.

18. What is the root of the term 'theory'?

Ans -The Greek word theoria, meaning contemplation or speculation.

19. Who said, "Political theory means anything about politics or relevant to politics"?

Ans -David Held.

20. Who defined political theory as "political science and political philosophy"?

Ans -Andrew Hacker.

21. Who said, "Ignore history and the delight of politics is never to be retrieved"?

Ans -Bernard Crick.

22. Who said, "Whoever you are or want to be, you may not be interested in politics but politics is interested in you"?

Ans -Pericles.

23. Who wrote The Republic?

Ans –Plato.

24. Who said, "The state comes into existence for the sake of life and it continues for the sake of good life"?

Ans – Aristotle .

25. Who regarded politics as 'authoritative allocation of values in a society'?

Ans – David Easton .

26. Who considered political science as a 'progressive science'?

Ans –Woodrow Wilson

27. What is the subject matter of political science?

Ans – The study of the state, government, political processes, political behavior, and political systems.

28. Who wrote the book The Communist Manifesto?

Ans – Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels .

29. Who is regarded as the father of political science?

Ans – Aristotle .

30. Which theory explains that 'conflicts are a feature of a class society'?

Ans – Marxist Theory .

31. What is the traditional meaning of politics?

Ans – The art or science of government and governance.

32. What is the modern meaning of politics?

Ans – The study of power, decision-making, resource allocation, and the dynamics of political systems and behavior.

33. Explain political theory?

Ans – Political theory examines the ideas, principles, and concepts that underpin political institutions and practices such as justice, rights, freedom, and democracy.

34. Who said, "Philosophers have only interpreted the world. The point is, however, to change it"?

Ans –Karl Marx .

35. Who said, "The political theorist speaks out with honesty on the perennial problems confronting man in his existence of society"?

Ans – Sheldon Wolin .

36. Who is convinced that "Political theory will not vanish from the earth"?

Ans –Leo Strauss.

[STA] MARKS -2

1. What is politics?[2018]

Ans – Politics is the process of making decisions that apply to members of a group, often concerning governance, power, and authority.

2. What is the traditional meaning of politics?

Ans - Gettell's view is, "politics is the study of the state in the past, the present, and the future."

3. What is the modern meaning of politics?

Ans – Paul Janet says, " Politics is that part of the social science which treats of the foundation of the state and the principle of government."

4. Write two features of politics?

Ans – Power and authority are central to politics.

Politics involves conflict resolution and decision-making.

5. Explain the Greek view of politics?

Ans – The Greeks viewed politics as the art of governance and emphasized the importance of active participation in the public affairs of the polis (city-state). Aristotle defined humans as "political animals."

6. Explain the liberal view of politics?

Ans – The liberal view emphasizes individual rights, freedom, and limited government. Politics, in this view, ensures the protection of individual liberty and equality.

7. Write the Marxist view of politics ?

Ans – The Marxist perspective sees politics as a reflection of class struggles, where the state and its policies serve the interests of the ruling class in a capitalist society.

8. Mention two characteristics of political theory.

Ans – It involves critical analysis of political concepts like justice, power, and liberty.

It provides normative frameworks for evaluating political systems and practices.

9. Mention two differences between political science and political theory ?

Ans – Political science is social science. Political science is the study of a state as well as non-state institutions.

Political theory is dynamic. Political theory is interdisciplinary. It is also empirical or concerned with facts.

[BROAD TYPE QUESTIONS]:

1. Explain the significance of quality

Ans -Its significance can be understood through several key dimensions:

Defining politics is not an easy task. There are as many definitions of politics-

Paul Janet says, "Politics is that part of social science which treats of the foundation of the state and the principles of government.

John Seeley says, "Politics investigates the phenomenon of government"

Leacock describes politics as "one that deals with government".

Politics is about political system. For David Easton, politics is all about political system which 'authoritatively allocates values in the society'.

In Robert Dahl's view, "Politics and conflicts are best as twins".

Leslie Lipson declares, "By politics, we mean act controversy". Marxists refer to politics as the "struggle for power" between Politics is about polis' or state. The word 'politics is derived from the Greek word 'polis', meaning literally 'state'. Politics thus deals with state.

Garner says, "Politics begins and ends with the state".

Gettell's view is that politics is the "study of state in the past, the present and the future". Ancient Greeks regarded politics as a study of city-states. Politics today is known as Political Science.

politics is an activity .it is an unless action .it is activity by which decision are made politics are formaltd and laws are implemented. politics is a social process it is primarily engaged in collective issues. power is a core concerned in politics politics is struggle for power among different community group and classes. politics mainly deals with the political the political is that dimension of our collective life where we fight for our interest make claims on each other important issues are debated and discusses the power theory. Political regard politics as a struggle for State Power the state is the most important for state and politics are synonym.

Besides state there are other domains are structurals or powers like class cars gender etc. struggle for power among this unit politics imagines about the better future .it seems to create a better future for us .politics about expansion of choices and capacities in India movements demand for expansion of choices and capacities of marginalise community because of operating interest.

Politics is premierly national but it also deals with Global institution. politics is premierly national but it also deals with Global institution like IMF World Bank WTO etc .This institution influences the course of political within Nation politics today focuses on issues and debate surround Environment protection and sustainable development this issues are political By Nature States alone can addresses these issues .

politics is a Universal activity .It is present everywhere it can be domestic National Municipal local or International .Politics is also an academic subject .politics part of our social life .We cannot think of living and surviving without politics .Berman statement is whoever you are or want to be you may not be but politics is interested in you.

2. Discuss the Nature and Scope of Political Theory.

Ans- **Nature and Scope of Political Theory:**

Political theory is a branch of political science that seeks to understand, analyze, and evaluate political ideas, ideologies, institutions, and practices. It combines abstract thinking with practical concerns about governance, justice, rights, and power. Below is a discussion of its nature and scope.

1. Normative and Analytical

Normative Aspect:* Political theory is concerned with what "ought to be." It examines ethical and moral principles, addressing questions about justice, liberty, equality, and rights. **Analytical Aspect:*** It also involves the objective analysis of political phenomena, systems, and behavior, aiming to understand "what is."

2. Interdisciplinary Approach

Political theory overlaps with philosophy, sociology, history, law, and economics. It draws from these disciplines to provide a comprehensive understanding of political life.

3. Philosophical Roots

Political theory has its roots in political philosophy. Thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, and Marx used philosophy to explore fundamental political concepts and provide insights into the ideal state or governance system.

4. Dynamic and Evolving

Political theory evolves over time, adapting to changing social, political, and economic conditions. For example, classical theories focused on statecraft and governance, while modern theories emphasize power, ideology, and global concerns like environmental justice.

5. Prescriptive and Descriptive

Political theory not only describes and explains political phenomena but also prescribes solutions to political problems. For example, it critiques existing systems and suggests reforms for improvement.

SCOPE POLITICAL THEORY

1. Study of Political Concepts*

- Political theory examines foundational concepts like justice, freedom, equality, democracy, power, and authority. It explores their definitions, implications, and applications in political systems.

2. *Analysis of Ideologies*

- It studies political ideologies such as liberalism, socialism, conservatism, feminism, anarchism, and environmentalism. Understanding these ideologies helps in analyzing the dynamics of political movements and governance systems.

3. *Critique of Political Institutions*

- Political theory critiques institutions like the state, government, judiciary, and bureaucracy. It questions their legitimacy, structure, and functioning in promoting justice and public welfare.

4. *Role in Governance and Policy*

- Political theory provides a framework for policy formulation and governance by offering normative guidelines and theoretical insights. For example, Rawls's theory of justice has influenced welfare policies.

5. *Exploration of Power and Authority*

- It investigates the nature, sources, and distribution of power and authority in society. The works of thinkers Foucault and Weber emphasize the relationship between power, politics, and social control.

2. Discuss the Nature and Scope of Political Science.

Ans -Political science focuses on the theory and practice of government and politics at the local, state, national, and international levels.

1. Scholars do not agree about the nature of Political Theory. Some scholars describe Political Theory as political thought .to some other political theory is political philosophy. still, some other fill that Political Theory is political science. but the fact is that Political Theory is more than a combination of all these.

2. Political Theory is interdisciplinary. It is related with other discipline like history, sociology, economics, psychology etc.

3. Political Theory is normative as well as empirical. It is normative with what ought to be." it is also empirical or concerned with facts.

4. Political Theory is an analytical study of political system and political behavior. Easton, Almond, Dahl, etc emphasize the understanding of political behaviour of man. Their approach is called behavioral approach to Political Theory .

5. Political Theory is dynamic. The ancient Greek thinkers that concerned only with state and government, but modern political theories have formulated new concept and theories.

6. Political Theory is not dead ,as some Scholars have alleged. Rather , it is developing .dante Germino claims " that there is a Renaissance of Political Theory in the Grand manner."

7. George H. Sabine has describe Political Theory as history , philosophy and also science. Political theory is history as political issues cannot be understood without understanding their historical growth and development.

3 . Discuss the traditional and modern meaning of politics.

Ans - **The Traditional Meaning Of Politics -**

1. Focus on the State and Governance

Politics was traditionally understood as the study of the state, government, and their institutions. It was primarily about the art of governance and decision-making within the framework of laws and constitutions.

Thinkers like Aristotle referred to politics as the "master science," focusing on the organization of the polis (city-state) to achieve the "good life."

2. Ethical and Moral Dimensions

Classical political thinkers like Plato and Aristotle emphasized the role of politics in creating a just and virtuous society. Politics was seen as a means to achieve ethical goals and societal harmony.

3. Limited Scope

Traditional politics revolved around statecraft and the activities of rulers, focusing on formal institutions such as the legislature, executive, and judiciary.

4. Conflict Resolution

Politics was viewed as a tool for resolving conflicts within the state through laws and governance, ensuring peace and order.

5. Normative Approach

Traditional politics was prescriptive, dealing with "what ought to be" rather than "what is." It focused on idealistic models of governance and justice.

The Modern Meaning of Politics

1. Broader Scope

Modern politics is no longer confined to state and government institutions. It includes the study of power dynamics, decision-making processes, and societal interactions at all levels (local, national, and global).

2. Focus on Power

Thinkers like Machiavelli and later political scientists emphasize politics as a struggle for power, influence, and control over resources.

3. Authoritative Allocation of Resources

David Easton defined politics as the "authoritative allocation of values," emphasizing its role in distributing resources, wealth, and opportunities in society.

4. Inclusion of Informal Structures

Modern politics examines not only formal institutions but also informal structures like political parties, pressure groups, media, and civil society.

5. Empirical and Analytical Approach

Modern politics relies on scientific methods, empirical data, and research to analyze political behavior and institutions.

4. Explain the liberal and Marxist view of politics.

Ans- **Liberal and Marxist Views of Politics**

The liberal and Marxist views of politics represent two distinct and contrasting perspectives on the nature of power, governance, and society. While liberalism focuses on individual rights, freedom, and democracy, Marxism emphasizes class struggle, the role of economic systems, and the need for a classless society.

1. Core Principles

Individual Freedom: Liberalism prioritizes individual rights, liberty, and personal autonomy. Politics is seen as a means to protect and enhance these freedoms.

Equality Before the Law: Liberals advocate for legal equality, ensuring that everyone has equal access to justice and opportunities.

Limited Government: Politics is viewed as a process to establish a government that respects individual freedoms while maintaining order. The state's role is minimal, focusing on protecting life, liberty, and property.

Democracy and Pluralism: Liberals support democratic systems where political power is derived from the consent of the governed. They also value diverse opinions and political participation.

2. View of Politics

Politics is seen as a mechanism to create and maintain a framework for individual rights and freedoms through institutions like constitutions, rule of law, and democracy.

John Locke, a key liberal thinker, argued that politics arises from the social contract, where individuals collectively agree to form a state to protect their natural rights.

3. Conflict and Cooperation

Liberals see politics as both a conflict over competing interests and a cooperative process to resolve differences through dialogue and compromise.

4. Economic Perspective

Liberals advocate for a capitalist economic system, emphasizing free markets and private property. However, modern liberalism recognizes the role of the state in addressing social inequalities through welfare policies.

Marxist View of Politics

1. Core Principles

Class Struggle: Marxists argue that politics is fundamentally about the conflict between social classes—specifically, the bourgeoisie (capitalist class) and the proletariat (working class).

Economic Determinism: Marxism views politics as a superstructure shaped by the underlying economic base (the mode of production). Political institutions and ideologies serve the interests of the dominant economic class.

Abolition of Class Society: Marxists envision a future where class distinctions are eliminated, leading to a stateless and classless society under communism.

2. View of Politics

Politics is seen as a tool used by the ruling class to maintain their dominance. Political systems, laws, and ideologies perpetuate exploitation under capitalism.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels emphasized that politics cannot be separated from economic relations, and political change must result from revolutionary action by the working class.

3. Conflict-Centric Approach

- Unlike liberalism, Marxism focuses on inherent conflicts in society arising from unequal ownership of resources. The state is viewed as an instrument of class oppression.

4. Economic Perspective

Marxism rejects capitalism and advocates for socialism, where the means of production are collectively owned, and resources are distributed based on need rather than profit.

5. Why should we study politics?

Ans-

Studying politics is essential for understanding the structures, processes, and dynamics that govern societies. It helps individuals engage meaningfully in public life, make informed decisions, and contribute to the functioning of democracy and governance. Below are the key reasons why the study of politics is significant:

1. Understanding Power and Governance

Politics involves the distribution and exercise of power. By studying it, we understand how power is used, who wields it, and how decisions impact society.

It explains the functioning of institutions like governments, parliaments, and courts, as well as informal entities like political parties and interest groups.

2. Development of Citizenship

Politics teaches us about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, empowering individuals to actively participate in democratic processes. It fosters critical thinking about civic duties such as voting, protesting, or advocating for social justice.

3. Resolving Conflicts

Politics provides mechanisms for resolving conflicts between individuals, groups, or nations. Understanding these mechanisms enables us to manage disputes peacefully and constructively.

4. Promoting Social Justice and Equity

By studying political theories and systems, we gain insights into addressing social inequalities, marginalization, and discrimination. It allows us to evaluate policies and advocate for reforms that promote fairness and equality.

5. Global Perspective

In a globalized world, politics extends beyond national boundaries. Studying politics helps us understand international relations, global challenges like climate change, terrorism, and economic inequalities.

6. Informed Decision-Making

Political education enables people to make informed decisions during elections or referendums. It also helps individuals critically evaluate political ideologies, leaders, and policies.

7. Encouraging Active Participation

Studying politics motivates individuals to participate in public life, whether through voting, joining political organizations, or engaging in activism.

8. Understanding Economic Policies

Politics and economics are deeply intertwined. Studying politics provides insights into how governments manage resources, taxation, and public spending, impacting citizens' lives.

Studying politics is not just about understanding governments or policies; it is about being an informed, active, and engaged citizen. It equips individuals with the tools to critically analyze power structures, promote democratic values, and contribute to the betterment of society. As Aristotle aptly said, "Man is by nature a political animal," emphasizing the relevance of politics to human life.

6. Explain the relevance of Political Theory.

Ans- **Relevance of Political Theory**

Political theory is a critical branch of political science that deals with understanding, analyzing, and evaluating the fundamental concepts, ideas, and principles underlying political life. It explores themes like justice, freedom, equality, power, and the role of the state. In today's complex and dynamic world, the relevance of political theory remains significant for individuals, societies, and governments.

1. Understanding Core Political Concepts

- Political theory helps us comprehend essential ideas like democracy, liberty, equality, justice, rights, and sovereignty, which are vital for political life.
- It provides the intellectual tools to analyze and critique the principles that guide political systems and policies.

2. Provides Normative Guidance

Political theory explores how society ought to be, offering ethical and philosophical guidance for structuring governance and social relations.

3. Clarifies Political Practices

By studying political theory, one can understand and evaluate political institutions, practices, and ideologies.

- It sheds light on the theoretical underpinnings of systems like democracy, socialism, or liberalism, enabling us to grasp their implications.

4. Addresses Contemporary Challenges

Political theory remains relevant in addressing modern-day global issues like climate change, social justice, gender equality, human rights, and migration. It provides a framework for analyzing complex problems and proposing solutions based on justice and fairness.

5. Enhances Critical Thinking

Political theory develops critical thinking skills, enabling individuals to question power structures, ideologies, and policies.

It encourages open debate and discussion about the values and priorities shaping society.

6. Guides Political Action

Political theory influences activism and policy-making by providing a coherent philosophical foundation for action.

For example, Marxist theory has inspired revolutions, while liberal theory has shaped the development of democratic institutions.

7. Promotes Democratic Engagement

Understanding political theory equips citizens to engage effectively in democratic processes, make informed decisions, and contribute to public debates. It helps people understand their rights and responsibilities within a political system.

8. Bridges the Gap Between Theory and Practice

Political theory links abstract ideas to practical realities. It helps policymakers and citizens alike understand how philosophical principles can be applied in governance and everyday life.

Political theory remains highly relevant as it provides the intellectual foundation for understanding politics, evaluating governance, and addressing societal challenges. It empowers individuals to think critically, participate meaningfully in democratic processes, and contribute to building a more just and equitable society. In an ever-changing world, political theory continues to offer insights into shaping the future of politics and governance.

7. Discuss any three functions of political theory.

Ans- **Three Functions of Political Theory**

Political theory serves as a cornerstone for understanding and analyzing political systems, concepts, and practices. Its primary functions are normative, explanatory, and evaluative, which contribute to shaping political thought and practice. Below are three key functions:

1. Normative Function: Guiding Political Ideals and Values

Political theory helps define and prescribe what ought to be in political systems and governance. It provides normative guidance by addressing questions of justice, freedom, equality, and the ideal role of the state in society.

For example: John Locke's theory of natural rights advocates for life, liberty, and property as fundamental values.

Rawls' theory of justice outlines principles for a fair and equitable society.

Relevance: This function ensures that political decisions and systems align with ethical and moral principles, promoting the greater good of society.

2. Explanatory Function: Understanding and Analyzing Political Realities

Political theory explains how political systems, institutions, and processes function.

It helps us understand the relationship between individuals, society, and the state by analyzing historical and contemporary political phenomena. For example:

Karl Marx used political theory to explain class struggles and the role of economic structures in shaping political power.

Liberalism explains the importance of democracy, free markets, and individual rights in governance.

Relevance: This function provides insights into the causes and dynamics of political events, enabling individuals to grasp the complexities of politics.-

3. Evaluative Function: Critiquing Political Systems and Policies

Political theory evaluates existing political structures, ideologies, and policies to determine their effectiveness and fairness. It assesses whether institutions and practices uphold democratic values, social justice, and human rights.

For example: Feminist political theory critiques patriarchal systems and advocates for gender equality.

Environmental political theory critiques policies that contribute to climate change and advocates for sustainable governance.

Relevance: This function helps identify flaws in political systems and inspires reforms to improve governance and promote equity.

Political theory's functions—normative, explanatory, and evaluative—play a crucial role in shaping political thought and practice. They help guide political ideals, provide understanding of political realities, and critique systems to ensure justice, equity, and fairness in society. Through these functions, political theory remains an indispensable tool for addressing contemporary challenges and fostering good governance.

8. Distinguish between political science and political theory.

Ans - Political Science and Political Theory are closely related fields within the study of politics but differ in focus, approach, and objectives. Here's a clear distinction:

Political Science

1. Definition: The systematic study of political institutions, processes, behavior, and governance in a real-world context.

2. Nature: Empirical and descriptive, focusing on observable phenomena and factual analysis.

3. Scope: Broad, covering areas like public policy, international relations, electoral behavior, and governmental institutions.
4. Methods: Relies on scientific approaches like data collection, statistical analysis, and case studies.
5. Objective: To explain, analyze, and predict how political systems function.
6. Examples: Studies of voter behavior, policymaking processes, and international diplomacy.

Political Theory

1. Definition: The study of fundamental political ideas, principles, and concepts like justice, liberty, and equality.
2. Nature: Normative and philosophical, focusing on what politics ought to be.
3. Scope: Narrower, centered on abstract concepts, ethical frameworks, and critiques of political systems.
4. Methods: Employs philosophical reasoning, textual interpretation, and critical analysis.
5. Objective: To provide normative guidance and intellectual frameworks for understanding and improving political systems.
6. Examples: Analysis of works by political philosophers such as Plato, Hobbes, Marx, or Rawls

Political science studies the "how" of politics, while political theory explores the "why" and "what ought to be".