

B.A.(Prog.) Political Science
Discipline Specific Core Course-(DSC-7) (Minor)

DSC-7 : COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

**Political Science Courses for Undergraduate Programme of study
with Political Science as one of the Core Disciplines**
(B.A. Programmes with Political Science as non-Major or Minor discipline)

**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE
COURSE**

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre- requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Comparative Government and Politics MDSC-4A	4	3	1	-	NA	NA

Learning Objectives

The purpose of this course is to equip students to understand government and politics through a comparative perspective. The course aims at familiarising students with the manner in which comparison is used as a method to understand the historical transformations in governmental forms, regime types, and political systems. It also hopes to make students understand the different modalities through which power circulates and resides in society and the distinct mechanisms through which consent is elicited from the people. The course is expected to bring to the students a thorough understanding of the historical contexts in which political systems and institutional structures take distinct forms and acquire features that distinguish them. The course hopes to bring out the specificities of these forms not just through historical signposts but also across different political cultures in the global North and South.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students would demonstrate:

- An in-depth understanding of nature and scope of comparative politics.
- Knowledge of regime forms as distinct from classification of political systems
- Knowledge of various kinds of electoral systems and party systems across countries
- An understanding of the manner in which power exists in society
- Analytical capacity to engage with contemporary debates on welfare, populism, and authoritarianism.

SYLLABUS OF MDSC-4A

UNIT – I (7 Hours)

The nature, scope and methods of comparative political analysis

UNIT – II (8 Hours)

Classifications of political systems

- (a) Parliamentary and Presidential
- (b) Federal and Unitary

UNIT – III (7 Hours)

Electoral Systems

First past the post, Proportional representation and Mixed systems

UNIT – IV (8 Hours)

Party Systems

Single-party, bi-party and multi-party systems

UNIT – V (7 Hours)

Structures of Power in Society

Classical elitist theory, power elites, pluralism and theory of ruling class

UNIT – VI (8 Hours)

Comparing Regimes

Democratic, Authoritarian, Welfare, Populism and Security Regimes

Essential/recommended readings

The nature, scope and methods of comparative political analysis

Bara, J. (2009) 'Methods for Comparative Analysis', in Bara, J. & Pennington, M. (eds.) *Comparative Politics*. New Delhi: Sage, pp. 40-65.

Blondel, J. (1996) 'Then and Now: Comparative Politics', *Political Studies*. Vol. 47, Issue 1, pp.152-160

Caramani, D. (2008) 'Introduction to Comparative Politics', in Caramani, D. (ed.) *Comparative Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-23.

Mohanty, M. (1975) 'Comparative Political Theory and Third World Sensitivity', in *Teaching Politics*. Nos. 1 & 2, pp. 22-38.

Chandhoke, N. (1996) 'Limits of Comparative Political Analysis', *Economic and Political Weekly*. vol. 31, No. 4, (January 27), pp. PE 2-PE8.

Classifications of political systems

Hague, R. and Harrop, M. McCormick J. (2016) *Comparative Government and Politics: An Introduction*. (Tenth Edition). London: Palgrave Macmillan. Ch11. Sub-national government.

Newton, K. and Deth, Jan W. V. (2010) Presidential and Parliamentary Government (Ch 5) in *Foundations of Comparative Politics: Democracies of the Modern World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Patrick H O'Neil, Karl J Fields and Don Share, (2018 Edition), Models of Democracy: Parliamentary, Presidential and Semi-Presidential System, *Essentials of Comparative Politics with Cases*, pp. 150-156.

Robbins, J. W. (2011) 'Presidentialism Verses Parliamentarism', in Ishiyama, J. T. and Marijke, *21st Century Political Science: A Reference Book*. Los Angeles: Sage.

Saxena, Rekha (2011). Introduction. In R. Saxena (Ed.), *Varieties of Federal Governance: Major Contemporary Models* (pp. xiii-xl), Foundations Book.

Electoral Systems