

---

## 7. Political Science : Introduction to Political Theory

---

### Course Objective

This course aims to introduce certain key aspects of conceptual analysis in political theory and the skills required to engage in debates surrounding the application of the concepts.

### Course Learning Outcomes

After completing this course students will be able to:

- Understand the nature and relevance of Political Theory
- Understand different concepts like liberty, equality, justice and rights.
- Reflect upon some of the important debates in Political Theory

### Unit 1: What is Political Theory and what is its relevance?

### Unit 2: Concepts: Liberty, Equality, Justice, Rights

### Unit 3: Debates in Political Theory:

- a. Protective discrimination and principles of fairness?
- b. The Public vs private debate: Feminist Perspective Censorship and its limits

### Unit wise reading list

#### Unit I

Bhargava, R. (2008) 'What is Political Theory', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 2-17.

Bhargava, R. (2008) 'Why Do We Need Political Theory', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 18-37.

#### Unit 2

Sriranjani, V. (2008) 'Liberty', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 40-57.

Acharya, A. (2008) 'Equality', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 58-73.

Menon, K. (2008) 'Justice', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 74-82.

Talukdar, P.S. (2008) 'Rights', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 88-105.

#### Unit 3

Acharya, A. (2008) 'Affirmative Action', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory:*