

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE – POLITICAL SCIENCE

DSC-5 : Methods and Approaches in Comparative Political Analysis

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		
Methods and Approaches in Comparative Political Analysis DSC 5	4	3	1	0	12 th Pass	NIL

Learning Objectives

This is a foundational course in comparative politics. The aim of this course is to introduce students to the foundational concepts, methods, approaches and the historical legacy of the discipline. The paper offers in-depth discussion on methods, different approaches in terms of their advantages and disadvantages to help understand politics in a critical-comparative framework. Students would be made familiar to the diversity of approaches to study politics such as institutionalism, political culture, political economy and specific debates within each of the approaches. Discussion on a diversity of approaches will highlight different tools, perspectives and parameters to understand the behaviour and functioning of institutions in a political system. This paper would also impart students the ability to use the analytical frame of gender with reference to specific issues like the women's political representation in comparative perspective. The paper will inculcate reflective thinking and research aptitude in students as they will learn to apply these critical outlooks in understanding politics and political processes, particularly from the perspective of developing societies.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students would demonstrate:

- An understanding of the nature, scope, methodology, and legacy of the sub-discipline.
- Awareness of the evolution of the sub-discipline of comparative politics and the challenge of Eurocentrism in the discipline.
- An in-depth understating of various approaches to the study of politics in a comparative framework.
- A basic training in comparative research.

SYLLABUS OF DSC- 5

UNIT – I (09 Hours)

Understanding Comparative Politics

- a. Nature and scope
- b. Why Compare

- c. Understanding Comparative Method: How to compare countries: large *n*, small *n*, single countries studies
- d. Going beyond Eurocentrism

UNIT – II (6 Hours)

Approaches to Studying Comparative Politics: Political System, Structural functional analysis

UNIT – III (6 Hours)

Approaches to Studying Comparative Politics: Traditional and Neo-Institutionalisms

- a. Historical Institutionalism
- b. Rational Choice Theory
- c. Sociological Institutionalism

UNIT – IV (9 Hours)

Approaches to Studying Comparative Politics: Political Culture

- a. Civic Culture (Sydney Verba)
- b. Subculture (Dennis Kavanagh)
- c. Hegemony (Antonio Gramsci)
- d. Post materialism (Ronald Inglehart)
- e. Social capital (R. Putnam)

UNIT – V (9 Hours)

Approaches to Studying Comparative Politics: Political Economy

- a. Underdevelopment
- b. Dependency
- c. Modernisation
- d. World Systems Theory

UNIT – VI (6 Hours)

Gendering Comparative Politics

- a. The Gender Lacuna in Comparative Politics
- b. Political Representation: Women in Government and Politics

Essential/recommended readings

Unit 1. Understanding Comparative Politics

Landman, T. (2003). *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction*, second edition. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 3-22.

Gerring, J. (2007) The Case Study: What it Is and What it Does in Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, Oxford University Press, pp 90-122.

Lijphart, A. (1971). Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method. *The American Political Science Review*, 65, No. 3, pp. 682-693.

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

Chandhoke N (1996) 'Limits of Comparative Political Analysis ', in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 31 (4), January 27, pp. PE 2-PE2-PE8