

B.A.(Hons.) Political Science
Semester-VII
Discipline Specific Core Course (DSC)

DSC-19-Themes in Western Political Philosophy

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		
Themes in Western Political Philosophy DSC-19	4	3	1	-	NA	NA

Learning Objectives

This course aims to expose the students to the manner in which normative questions on politics have been posed and examine their implications for larger questions surrounding our collective existence. By introducing the philosophers from different traditions students will be able to answer few fundamental political questions: Why do we live in political communities? How ought we to live together? What is the 'best' form of government? How do values and institutions relate to one another?

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course students would be able to:

- Understand the idea of modernity and establish a connection between societal changes and desired political prescriptions.
- Understand the tools of political argument.
- Identify various shades of political discourses and evaluate them.

SYLLABUS OF DSC-19

UNIT – I Modernity and its discourses

Kant as an Enlightenment thinker; Faith on Reason; Autonomy; Ethics and Politics.

UNIT – II Romantics

a. Jean Jacques Rousseau

Critique of Modern civilization; Origins of inequality; State of Nature and the Contract; General Will; Democracy and self-government;

b. Mary Wollstonecraft

Women and paternalism; Sentiment and Reason; legal rights and representation

UNIT – III Liberal John Stuart Mill

Liberal Utilitarianism; Liberty, suffrage and defence of democracy; subjection of women

UNIT – IV Radicals

a. Hegel

Ethical life: family, civil society and state

b. Karl Marx

Historical materialism; concept of value

Essential/recommended readings

1. Modernity and its discourses

Kant. (1784) 'What is Enlightenment?' available at <http://theliterarylink.com/kant.html>, Accessed: 19.04.2013

S. Hall (1992) 'Introduction', in *Formations of Modernity* UK: Polity Press pages 1-16 B. Nelson (2008) *Western Political Thought*. New York: Pearson Longman, pp. 221-255.

Rawls, J. *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*, Lectures on Rousseau, Harvard University Press, London pp: 191-229.

2. Romantics

M. Keens-Soper (2003) 'Jean Jacques Rousseau: The Social Contract', in M. Forsyth and M. Keens-Soper (eds) *A Guide to the Political Classics: Plato to Rousseau*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 171-202.

C. Jones (2002) 'Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindications* and their Political Tradition' in C. Johnson (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Mary Wollstonecraft*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 42-58.

3. Liberal

Mill, J.S. 'On Liberty' and other writings, Chapter 1, 3, 4.

Mill, J.S. *Utilitarianism* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2001), Chapter 1, 2, and 4

Rawls, J. *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*, Lectures on Mill, Harvard University Press, London Pp 251-314

Acton, H.B (1972), John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism, Liberty and Representative Government, David Campbell Publishers Ltd.

H. Magid (1987) 'John Stuart Mill', in L. Strauss and J. Cropsey (eds), *History of Political Philosophy*, 2nd edition. Chicago: Chicago University Press, pp. 784-801.

P. Kelly (2003) 'J.S. Mill on Liberty', in D. Boucher, and P. Kelly (eds.) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 324-359.

4. Radicals

Hegel's Philosophy of Right,
<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/hegel/works/pr/philosophy-of-right.pdf>

J. Cropsey (1987) 'Karl Marx', in L. Strauss and J. Cropsey (eds) *History of Political Philosophy*, 2nd Edition. Chicago: Chicago University Press, pp. 802-828.

L. Wilde (2003) 'Early Marx', in D. Boucher and P. Kelly, P. (eds) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 404-435.

Additional Resources: