

Discipline Specific Core Course (DSC)

DSC 1: Understanding Political Theory

Course Objective

This course introduces the various ways of theorizing politics. The idea is to introduce and assess the conventional as well as contemporary approaches to understanding politics.

Course Learning Outcomes

After reading the course, the learner would

- Understand the various traditions and approaches of political theory and appreciate how they get reflected in organizing social living
- Understand multiple frames by which the idea of political community is debated
- Understand the significance of theorizing and relating theory to practice.

Unit 1: What is Politics: Theorizing the ‘Political’

Unit 2: Approaches to Political Theory: Normative, Historical and Empirical

Unit 3: Traditions of Political Theory: Liberal, Marxist, Anarchist and Conservative

Unit 4: Critical Perspectives in Political Theory: Feminist and Postmodern

Unit 5: The Idea of Political Community: Political Obligation

Unit wise reading list

Unit 1

McKinnon, C. (2008) ‘Introduction’. *Issues in Political Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Bhargava, R. (2008) ‘What is Political Theory’, in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds), *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 2-16.

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. 17-36.

Unit 2

Glaser, D. (1995) ‘Normative Theory’, in Marsh, D. And Stoker, G. (eds), *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. London: Macmillan, pp. 21-40.

Sanders, D. (1995) ‘Behavioral Analysis’, in Marsh, D. And Stoker, G. (eds), *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. London: Macmillan, pp. 58-75.

Ball, T. (2004). ‘History and the Interpretation of Texts’, in Gerald F. Gaus and Chandran Kukathas (eds), *Handbook of Political Theory*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, pp. 18-30.