

B.A. (HONS.) POLITICAL SCIENCE- SEMESTER-V

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE – 13: Western Political Philosophy - I

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		
Western Political Philosophy - I DSC-13	4	3	1	-	Passed Class XII	NIL

Learning Objectives

This course goes back to Greek antiquity and familiarizes the students with the manner in which the political questions were first posed and answered normatively. The aim is to introduce to the students the questions, ideas and values of political philosophy addressed by political thinkers and juxtapose the same to contemporary political thinking. The course aims to provide a critical grasp of the philosophical issues at the heart of politics.

Learning outcomes

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

- Understand how to read and decode the classics and use them to engage contemporary socio-political issues.
- Connect with historically written texts and their interpretations.
- Clearly present their own arguments and thoughts about contemporary issues and develop ideas to engage with the latter.

SYLLABUS OF DSC-13

UNIT – I

Text and Interpretation

UNIT – II

Antiquity

Plato

Philosophy and Politics, Virtues, Justice, Philosopher King/Queen, Communism, Plato on Democracy, Women and Guardianship, Philosophic Education and Good

Aristotle

Man as zoon politikon, State and Household, Citizenship, Justice, Virtue, Regimes

UNIT – III

Interlude:

Machiavelli

Vice and Virtue, Power, Political ethics, Religion and morality, Republicanism, statecraft

UNIT – IV

Possessive Individualism

Hobbes

Human nature, State of Nature, Social Contract and the role of consent, State and sovereignty

Locke

Laws of Nature, Natural Rights, Consent, Justification of Property, Right to Resist, Toleration

Essential/recommended readings

1. Text and Interpretation

T. Ball (2004) 'History and Interpretation' in C. Kukathas and G. Gaus (eds.) *Handbook of Political Theory*, London: Sage Publications Ltd. pp. 18-30.

Rawls, J. *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*, Harvard University Press, London, Introduction: 1-20.

Q. Skinner (2002) '*Vision of Politics*' Volume I, Meaning and understanding in the history of Ideas, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp57-89

2. Antiquity

Plato, *Republic*, Chapters, trans. G.M.A Grube, revised by C.D.C. Reeve. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1992

Plato, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/plato/>, Sanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy

A. Skoble and T. Machan (2007) *Political Philosophy: Essential Selections*. New Delhi: Pearson Education, pp. 9-32.

R. Kraut (1996) 'Introduction to the study of Plato', in R. Kraut (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-50.

C. Reeve (2009) 'Plato', in D. Boucher and P. Kelly (eds) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 62-80

Aristotle, *Politics*, Chapters, trans. C.D.C. Reeve (called "Politics") Indianapolis: Hackett, 1998

Aristotle, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-politics/>, Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy

A. Skoble and T. Machan (2007) *Political Philosophy: Essential Selections*. New Delhi: Pearson Education, pp. 53-64.

T. Burns (2009) 'Aristotle', in D. Boucher, and P. Kelly (eds) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.81-99.

C. Taylor (1995) 'Politics', in J. Barnes (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 232-258

3. Interlude