



## **HIMACHAL PRADESH NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, SHIMLA**

### **Semester: I**

**B.A. LL.B. (Hons.)**

**Paper Code: BL-101**

**Political Science - I (Political Theory)**

**Credit - 04**

### **Introduction:**

Political Science is a subject concerned with the study of the state and the government. It was first developed as a systematic subject by the ancient Greeks with reference to the city-states. But in its modern form, the subject is comparatively a recent development. Till the dawn of the era of democracy and nationalism, politics was considered as the exclusive prerogative of the princes, politicians, philosophers and publicists, and the common person hardly bothered about politics and political theorizing. However, with the spread of democratic and nationalist ideas, politics has become everyone's affair. The spread of education among the people has created new political awareness among the people and encouraged them to take an active part in political activities. As a result, political science is no longer the privilege of a few and has fallen within the reach of even common people.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. To introduce students to the academic discipline of Political Science.
2. To understand the nature and scope of the discipline with a special focus on its relationship with Law and Legal Studies.
3. To understand the meanings and theories of the origins of the state with special reference to Marxist and Liberal views along with the concepts related to the study of state- sovereignty, liberty, and equality.
4. To understand the concept of democracy, its nature and organs of government has also been included to help enrich the knowledge of students regarding the functioning and performance of various governments.

**Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of the Course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the discipline of political science, its nature, scope and significance.
2. Analyse and identify the relation of legal studies with the academic discipline of politics and political science.
3. The basic premise of state and some other concepts of political theory.
4. Understand different forms of Government along with the different organs of Government.

**Module - I****Introduction to Political Science**

- 1.1. The Idea of Politics;
- 1.2. Introduction to Political Science;
- 1.3. Political Science - Its Nature, Scope and Significance;
- 1.4. Methods and Approaches to Studying Politics;
- 1.5. Relationship of Political Science with Law.

**Module - II****Studying the State**

- 2.1. The Idea of State;
- 2.2. Definition, meaning and elements of the modern state;
- 2.3. Theories of origin of state - Divine Force, Social contract, Patriarchal and Matriarchal and Historical;
- 2.4. Theories of State Activity – Liberal and Socialist;
- 2.5. Welfare State.

**Module - III****Some Important Concepts**

- 3.1. Sovereignty;
- 3.2. Justice;
- 3.3. Liberty;
- 3.4. Equality;
- 3.5. Democracy.

**Module - IV**  
**Nature of Government**

- 4.1. Presidential form of Government;
- 4.2. Parliamentary forms of Government;
- 4.3. Unitary and Federal forms of Government;
- 4.4. Organs of Government – Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary;
- 4.5. Political Parties, Public Opinion and Pressure Groups.

**Prescribed Books:**

1. A. Heywood, POLITICAL THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION, (England Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).
2. D. Held and P. Maffettone, GLOBAL POLITICAL THEORY, (2016).
3. G. Klosko, HISTORY OF POLITICAL THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION, (Oxford University Press, 2012).
4. M. G. Gandhi, POLITICAL THEORY AND THOUGHT, (Pragati Publication, 2007).
5. M. Gilbert, THEORY OF POLITICAL OBLIGATION: MEMBERSHIP, COMMITMENT AND THE BONDS OF SOCIETY, (Oxford University Press, 2006).
6. N. Dhadich, CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION, (Rawat Publication, 2015).
7. O. P. Gauba, INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY, (2016).
8. P. Deutscher, and C. Lafont, CRITICAL THEORY IN CRITICAL TIMES: TRANSFORMING THE GLOBAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ORDER, (Columbia University Press, 1893).
9. R. Bhargava and A. Acharya, POLITICAL THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION, (Pearson, 2017).
10. R. Garner, P. Ferdinand, and S. Lawson, INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS, (Oxford University Press, 2016).

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