

UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

SYLLABUS

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**THREE-YEAR HONOURS
DEGREE COURSE OF STUDIES**



POLITICAL SCIENCE

2010

Syllabus for Three-Year B.A. (Honours) Course in

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Part I

F.M. 200

Paper I: POLITICAL THEORY:

100-Marks

Unit I

1. What is Politics – Approaches to the study of Politics: Normative, Behavioural and Post-behavioural. Feminist views to Politics.
2. Theories of the State (a) Origin: Social Contract Theory; (b) Nature: Idealist, Liberal and Neo-liberal theories.
3. Concept of State Sovereignty: Monistic and Pluralistic theories – Changing concepts of Sovereignty in the context of Globalization.

Unit II

1. Democratic Theories: David Held's Classification: Protective (Bentham), Developmental (J.S. Mill), Participatory.
2. Liberty, Equality, Rights and Law: concepts and their interrelations – Justice: concept – theory of Rawls.
3. Empirical political theories: Systems Analysis, Structural-Functionalism.

Unit III

1. Marxist approach to the study of Politics.
2. Dialectical Materialism and Historical Materialism with special reference to relationship between base and superstructure – Concepts of Class and Class Struggle.
3. Marxist theory of the State – the question of relative autonomy.

Unit IV

1. Marxist Concepts of Freedom and Democracy.
2. Marxian theory of Revolution: contributions of Lenin and Mao.
3. Marxian theory of the Party: Lenin's contribution – Lenin – Rosa Luxemburg Debate on Party.

PAPER II: COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

100 Marks

Unit I

1. Distinction between Comparative Politics and Comparative Government – Development of Comparative Politics.
2. Scope, purposes and methods of comparison – Approaches to the study of Comparative Politics.
3. Federal systems: federalism in USA and Russia

Unit II

1. Nature of liberal and socialist political systems – their distinguishing features, with special reference to conventions, rule of law, parliamentary sovereignty (UK), separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial review (USA), ideology, democratic centralism (PRC), referendum, initiative (Switzerland).
2. Political Parties: features and role of party system/parties in UK, USA and PRC. Interest groups: their roles and performance in UK and USA

Unit III

1. Legislature in UK and PRC: composition and functions of the legislative chambers – the NPC in PRC – role of second chambers in UK and USA – Committee system in UK and USA – role of speakers in parliamentary and presidential systems (UK and USA).
2. Executive in UK, USA, France and Russia: A comparative study of (i) Russian, French and American Presidency; (ii) British and French cabinet systems.

Unit IV

1. Relation between executive and legislature in UK, USA and PRC: A comparative study.
2. Judiciary in UK, USA and PRC (with special reference to the procuratorate): A comparative study.
3. Rights of the citizens of UK, USA and PRC: A comparative study – Duties of the citizens of PRC.

Part II

F.M. 200

PAPER – III: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN INDIA

100 Marks

Unit I

1. Framing of the Indian Constitution: Role of the Constituent Assembly – the Preamble.
2. Fundamental Rights and Duties – Directive Principles.
3. Nature of Indian Federalism: Union-State Relations.
4. Union Executive: President, Vice-President: election, position, functions (with reference to Emergency Powers), Prime Minister, Council of Ministers, relationship of Prime Minister and President.

Unit II

1. Union Legislature: Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha: Organisation, Functions – Law-making procedure, Privileges, Committee system – Speaker.
2. Government in the states: Governor, Chief Minister and Council of Ministers: position and functions – State Legislature: composition and functions.
3. The Judiciary: Supreme Court and the High Courts: composition and functions – Judicial activism.

4. Constitutional amendment: Procedure – main recommendations of the Constitutional Review Commission (Venkatchalliah Commission).

Unit III

1. Party system: features and trends – major national political parties in India: ideologies and programmes – coalition politics in India: nature and trends – political parties in West Bengal: An overview.
2. Electoral process: Election Commission: composition, functions, role.
3. Role of business, working class, peasants in Indian politics.

Unit IV

1. Role of (a) religion (b) language (c) caste (d) tribe and (e) regionalism in Indian politics.
2. New Social Movements since the 1970s: (a) environmental movements, (b) women's movements, (c) human rights movements.

PAPER IV: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

100 Marks

Unit I

1. International Relations: a brief outline of its evolution as an academic discipline.
2. Some representative theories of International Relations: (a) Realism (b) Pluralism (c) World Systems theory.
3. Emergent issues in International Relations: (a) Development (b) Regionalism and Integration (c) Terrorism

Unit II

1. Some basic concepts in International Relations: (a) Balance of Power (b) Bipolarity and Unipolarity (c) Neo-colonialism (d) Globalization.
2. Foreign Policy: concept and techniques: diplomacy, propaganda, military

Unit III

1. Cold war and its evolution: an outline – understanding the post-cold war world: an overview.
2. Europe in transition: (a) European Union (b) Ethnicity and nationalism in Eastern Europe since 1990s.
3. Problems of developing countries: NAM – contemporary relevance, Regionalism: ASEAN, AU (African Union), OPEC, SAFTA and SAARC – West Asia and the Palestine question after the cold war.

Unit IV

1. Indian Foreign Policy: basic principles and evolution.
2. Foreign policies of USA and China: Evolution and basic issues after the cold war.
3. UNO: Background; Organs with special reference to Security Council, General Assembly and Secretariat – role of the UNO in peace-keeping and human rights.

PAPER – V: WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

100 Marks

Unit I

1. Greek political thought: main features – Plato: justice, communism – Aristotle: state, classifications of constitutions.
2. Roman political thought: theories of Law and Citizenship – contributions of Roman thought.
3. Medieval Political Thought in Europe: Main features.

Unit II

1. Medieval political thought in Europe: main features.
2. Political thought of Reformation.
3. Bodin: contributions to the theory of Sovereignty.

Unit III

1. Hobbes: founder of the science of materialist politics.
2. Locke: founder of Liberalism: views on natural rights, property and consent.
3. Rousseau's views on Freedom and Democracy.
4. Bentham: Utilitarianism.

Unit IV

1. John Stuart Mill's views on liberty and representative government.
2. Hegel: Civil Society and State.
3. Utopian and Scientific socialism: basic characteristics – Anarchism: an outline.
4. Varieties of non-Marxist socialism: Fabianism, Syndicalism, Guild Socialism, German Revisionism.

PAPER VI: INDIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT AND MOVEMENT 100 Marks

Unit I

1. Features of ancient Indian political ideas: an overview – Kautilya: Saptanga theory, Dandaniti, Diplomacy.
2. Medieval political thought in India: legitimacy of kingship – duties and responsibilities of a Muslim ruler.
3. Modern Indian thought: Rammohan Roy as pioneer of Indian liberalism – his views on Rule of Law, Freedom of thought and Social Justice.
4. Bankimchandra, Vivekananda and Rabindranath: views on nationalism.

Unit II

1. Gandhi: State and Trusteeship.
2. M.N. Roy: Radical Humanism.
3. Narendra Deva: contributions to socialism.
4. Syed Ahmed Khan: views on colonial rule and modernization.

Unit III

1. Foundation of the Indian National Congress.
2. Bengal Partition and Swadeshi movement.
3. Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movement – Civil Disobedience movement
4. Alternatives to Congress politics: (a) Subhas Chandra Bose and Forward Bloc (b) Congress Socialist Party (c) the Communists.

Unit IV

1. Movements against caste system and untouchability – Ambedkar's views on Social Justice and Depressed Class.
2. Class and the nationalist movement under colonial rule: working class movement and peasant movement.
3. Roots of communal politics: Savarkar and Hindu nationalism, Jinnah and two-nation theory.
4. August 1942 movement – the INA – Naval uprisings.

PAPER VII: POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

100 Marks

Unit I

1. Social bases of politics.
2. Process of State formation and nationalism in West Europe and third world.
3. Social stratification and politics: caste, class, elite.

Unit II

1. Gender and politics: basic issues.
2. Power, Authority and Legitimacy.
3. Religion, Society and Politics – religion in society: different views.

Unit III

1. Classification and types of political systems.
2. Political culture and Political socialization: nature, types and agencies.
3. Political participation: concept and types.
4. Groups in politics: Parties and Pressure groups.

Unit IV

1. Political communication: concept and features.
2. Electorate and electoral behaviour (with reference to India)
3. Military and politics: conditions and modes of intervention.
4. Political development and social change – role of tradition and modernity.

PAPER VIII: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

100 Marks

Unit I

1. Nature, Scope and Evolution of Public Administration – Private and Public Administration – Principles of Socialist Management.
2. Challenges to the discipline of Public Administration and responses: New Public Administration, Comparative Public Administration and Development Administration (with special reference to India).
3. Major concepts of administration: (a) Hierarchy (b) Unity of command (c) Span of control (d) Authority (e) Centralization, Decentralization and Delegation (f) Line and Staff.
4. Bureaucracy: Views of Marx and Max Weber.

Unit II

1. Ecological approach to Public Administration: Riggsian Model.
2. Administrative Processes: (a) Decision making (b) Communication and Control (c) Leadership (d) Co-ordination.
3. Policy-making: Models of policy making – policies and implementation.

Unit III

1. Continuity and change in Indian administration: a brief historical outline.
2. The Civil Service in India (Bureaucracy): recruitment (role of UPSC, SPSC), training.
3. Organization of the Union Government: Secretariat Administration: PMO, Cabinet Secretariat.
4. Organization of the State Government: Chief Secretary – relationship between Secretariat and Directorate.
5. District Administration: changing role of District Magistrate.

Unit IV

1. Local Self Government: Corporations, Municipalities and Panchayats in West Bengal: structure and functions – 73rd and 74th Amendment: an overview.
2. Planning and plan administration: Planning Commission, National Development Council, District Planning.
3. Financial Administration: Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee – role of CAG.
4. Citizen and administration: functions of Lokpal Lokayukt.

Question Pattern

The present system should continue. Students will have to write (i) two short notes – each carrying 5 marks – out of four, and (ii) one broad question of 15 marks out of two from each Unit.

Number of Lectures

There should be 64 classes per week for 8 honours papers, i.e. 8 classes a week for each paper.

NOTE: The syllabus of General Course remain unchanged.