

1.3 Course – III, Political Science-I

Objectives:

The course is organized to develop knowledge of theories, and concepts in Political Science. It helps the students to assess how global, national and regional political developments affect society. It furnishes the students with a unique multidisciplinary approach in social sciences and prepares them understand the impact of political factors on law making and implementation in the country.

Course Outcome:

On successful completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Analyse the importance of state government and sovereignty.
2. Explain the various political thoughts developed in Roman Legal system.
3. Critically analyze the administration of justice system in ancient India.
4. Analyse the role of Constitution in democracy.

UNIT- I

Political Science- Definition, nature and scope; relations with other Social Sciences; geography and psychology.

Conception of State and government-

- a) State (defined); nature of the state; elements of the state (in detail) State – Society; state-association; state-government;
- b) Sovereignty- meaning, aspects, attributes Kinds (with special reference to political and legal sovereignty).

UNIT-II

Main currents of western Political thought (Ancient & Medieval)

- a) Aristotle
- b) Roman Legal system
- c) Natural Law and Natural rights- Cicero, St.ThomasAquinas
- d) Machiavelli.

Modern Western Political Thought

Liberalism- a) in the West – features, merits and limitations; liberalist thinkers- Herbert Spencer, Bentham and J.S.Mills (a brief sketch).

Socialism- meaning and features- Evolutionary, revolutionary, democratic. Marxism and Communism: Marxian and modern communism (a comparison)

UNIT-III

Indian political Thought- Ancient& Medieval

- a) Hindu- concept of state: 7 elements of the state; Government and administration: justice and law; function and duties of a ruler (Vedic, Classic, Kautilyan)

b) Islamic thought & concept of the state; The Shariat as the basis of law: administration- Finance, welfare, Crime Punishment and justice.

Modern Political Thought- Western and Indian Gandhian thought-

- a) Liberalism Vs Marxist thought in the east
- b) Totalitarianism- features, merits, demerits, Fascism & Nazism (a note)
- c) Democracy- Meaning, Essentials, merits, demerits, conditions for success
- d) Satya, Ahimsa and Sarvodaya: Basic principles of his philosophy: influences on him and his thoughts.

UNIT-IV

Political Organisation

- a. Constitution- meaning, classification, condition of a good constitution.
- b. Conventions- in unwritten and written Constitutions- ex UK, USA., India.
- c. Unitary and federal Governments- features, relative merits and demerits- eg. U.K., USA, India, Switzerland.
- d. Indian federation- features; how federal is India?

Organs of government:

- a) Legislature- meaning, functions; role Unicameralism- arguments for and against Bicameralism-Organisation, arguments for and against; Direct legislation
- b) Executive- meaning, kinds, functions, Parliamentary vs. Non-parliamentary executive.
- c) Judiciary – Organisation, functions, Independence; judicial activism.

UNIT-V

Representation- Electorate; Constituencies

Single member vs. multi member; universal adult franchise; right to vote for women; Minority representation.

Public opinion- meaning, nature, media Public relations – meaning, principles & role.

Prescribed Books:

1. Lawrence O. Waalase. - *Gettel's History of Political Thought* .
2. Mockenzle Brown- *Indian Political Thought* from Ranade to Bhave.
3. Strong, O.F.-*Modern Political Constitutions* .

Reference Books:

1. Wheare K.C.-*Modern Constitutions*.
2. Wheare K.C.- *Federal Government* (Oxford Uni.Press)
3. Sabine: *A History of Political Theory*.
4. Cater & Harz- *Government and Politics in Twentieth Century*.
5. Hyper C.L. - *Political Thought*.