

2.2 Course – II, Political Science-II

Objectives:

The course is organized to develop knowledge of the concepts such as law, right, liberty, equality, justice etc. it provides basic understanding about political obligations, legitimacy of powers and impact of civil disobedience on the government. It furnishes the students with knowledge of political theories 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. Define the terminologies like law, liberty, equality, justice etc.
2. Explain the concept of legitimacy of power in the light of western political thought.
3. Analyse the impact of civil disobedience on the government
4. To analyse political obligation and utilitarian concept.

Contents:

UNIT – I

Law- meaning and nature; sources of law; kinds of law; laws and morality; rule of law; Administrative law; Delegated Legislation; the concept of justice.

Rights- Meaning, nature, Kinds, Relationship between rights and duties, kinds of duties, Human rights in brief.

Liberty- Meaning, importance, kinds. Equality- Meaning, importance, kinds Relationship between Liberty and Equality. Justice

UNIT – II

Legitimacy of Power- the Classical theory (Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau) - Modern approaches to the notion of political obligation (Max Weber, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim) - Theories of political legitimacy.

UNIT – III

The Problems of Civil Disobedience and Political Obligation, with particular reference to Gandhian and Neo-Gandhian thought, Thoreau, Martin Luther King (in brief)

UNIT – IV

Utilitarianism as an approach to Political Obligation – Jeremy Bentham and J.S.Mill (in brief) Foundation of Promissory and Contractual liability.

Idealism – its philosophy, merits and limitations- Kant, Hegel, T.H.Green (in brief)

UNIT – V

The problem of Punishment - Use of force by State against the citizen - The basis of criminal

sanction Theories of punishment.

The contemporary crisis of legitimation.

Power vs. Authority; authority and responsibility; legitimation. Legitimation of power- classical thought 1) Hobbes, Locks and Rousseau.

Max Weber- theory of bureaucracy and authority. 3) Durkheim - Policy obligation.

Prescribed Books:

1. Rajni Kothari - Democratic Policy and Social Change in India, Crisis and Opportunities .
2. Loewenstein - Political Power and the Governmental Process.
3. J. C. Johari - Contemporary Political Theory

Reference Books:

1. Flatman -Political Obligation.
2. Leiser Burton (Ch. 12, Civil Disobedience), Liberty, Justice and Morals.
3. D. Entrives- the Nation of the State (Pages 1-10 Introduction, Part I, Ch. 10, pp. 141-155, Legality and Legitimacy.)