

**DEPARTEMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**GOVERNMENT GENERAL DEGREE COLLEGE, MANGALKOTE**

**Programme Outcome in Political Science Honours**

The department of Political Science was established in 2015. The department offers 3 years B.A. Honours programme in Political Science under the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) introduced in 2017-18.

The aims and objectives of learning Political Science at the undergraduate level are:

1. To acquaint the students with the basic knowledge about society, politics and their interrelationship.
2. To help them understand the functioning of the democratic government in different countries.
3. Imparting a detailed understanding regarding the Constitution of India and at the subsequent stages an introduction to the Constitution of UK, USA, China, France, Russia and various other countries.
4. At the same time the undergraduate honours programme offers the students significant insight about the burning national and international issues like human rights, empowerment of women, environmental protection, globalization, poverty alleviation and the like.

This programme has been typically designed with two purposes in mind: firstly, to enrich the young minds initially with a basic and later on a detailed understanding of the political process and secondly, to prepare them for competitive examinations where Indian Polity and International Relations form a major part of the syllabus.

**Course Outcome**

**SEMESTER I**

**CC 1: WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

The main aim of this paper is to introduce to the students the foundation of political thought as represented by European thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau. Any understanding of politics is incomplete without studying these thinkers. At the same time this paper also talks about the dark ages and medieval period and how a secular political thought was introduced by Machiavelli in the wake of European Renaissance. Next the students are acquainted with the Marxist political philosophy and the basic ideas of class,

class struggle, capitalism, socialism and the like together with an analysis of liberty and individualism.

## **CC 2: POLITICAL THEORY**

In this paper the students begin their learning with an in-depth analysis into what constitutes political theory and its historical background. It also offers significant insight into the different approaches that have time and again provided the background for the development of newer theories like the behavioural and post-behavioural theories. This paper also defines the meaning of sovereignty and the different forms that it might take. The first-year students also gain valuable knowledge about the meaning of liberty and equality and how they are interconnected. The distributive justice theory of John Rawls also forms a part of this paper together with world ideologies like Anarchism, Fascism, Liberalism and Neo-Liberalism. The paper winds up with a critical analysis of the theories of state each of which in their turn encourages the young mind to rationally evaluate and build an interconnection between the traditional and contemporary theories.

## **GE 1: WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

This generic elective paper on Western Political Thought introduces the students with basic understanding of the features of Ancient Greek and medieval political thought in Europe. Students learn about the transition from the dark ages to the Renaissance that brought about scientific thinking in the political realm. As a stepping stone in the political arena it also includes the concept of sovereignty as reflected in the works of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau. The ancestry of political thinking will remain incomplete without the mention of Karl Marx and Lenin and hence the students here also get the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the basic tenets of Marxism-Leninism.

## **SEMESTER II**

### **CC 3: INDIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

The core course here deals with the emergence of political thought in India as enumerated in Kautilya's Arthashastra and his concept of the state and its ruler. Then this paper delves into the administrative system of the Mughal period and the students learn about the historical differences between the ancient and medieval times. Dealing with the colonial era this paper includes in its purview the contributions of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and Rabindranath Tagore to the modernization of the society. Their views on nationalism imbue the students with a moral and ethical perspective so far as

political philosophy is concerned. Gandhiji's ideals of social and economic standards have also been included in this paper so that the learners get a basic idea about the importance of decentralization, democracy, tolerance and brotherhood as the foundations of a modern nation. The role played by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in the eradication of social malices and establishment of a just social order needs special mention as the core foundation of character building.

## **CC 4: INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Starting with the constitution of the Constituent Assembly, to the writing of the Preamble, the ideas enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution of India, to an elaborate understanding of the Constitution itself, this core course is perhaps the single most important element to any student of political science in India. The course includes topics such as Fundamental Rights and Duties, the formation of the Central and State governments, the working of the judiciary, centre-state relations all of which are important not only for the future scholars of the discipline but also for students who aspire to apply for different competitive examinations. Here the learners are also required to keep themselves updated about the electoral process of the country and the subsequent electoral reforms since independence. No discussion on Indian polity is complete without mentioning the multi-party system of the country and the formation of coalition government. Thus, at the end of semester two, a political science honours student can be expected to have an in-depth knowledge about basic political theories and the democratic process of the nation.

## **GE 2: POLITICAL THEORY**

This generic elective paper begins with an understanding of the meaning of political theory and its significance. The students here have the opportunity to look at politics from a subjective and an objective point of view. The subjective view consists of scholars like Laski, Gettell, Green, Bentham on one hand and behaviouralists like David Easton and Lipset on the other. At the same time they gain an objective understanding of the concepts of sovereignty, rights, liberty and equality, the workings of political parties and pressure groups and their significance in democracy. While discussing the theories of the state, this course again takes a two way approach; an idealist approach as manifested by Gandhi, Hegel, Green and others and a materialist approach as manifested by Marx and Engles.

## **SEMESTER III**

### **CC 5: COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

This paper brings to the students of political science a whole new dimension of world Constitutions and their similarities and dissimilarities. Comparative Politics as a discipline began in the USA and later spread to the developing countries of the South as the colonial era was on its wane. This paper discusses in details the paradigmatic shift in the development of comparative politics, its objectives and scope. Thus the young minds are acquainted with the different forms of government in different parts of the world, namely, parliamentary, presidential, unitary and federal. Also they learn about people's rights in different parts of the world, the moorings of the party system in the North as well as the South, the scope and power of the judiciary, the parliamentary committees and the equality of the law. The comparison of world legislatures, judiciary, political parties enable students to understand the dynamics of international politics, political stability or instabilities, the hegemonic power structure and the main players in international affairs.

### **CC 6: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

The students of political science at the undergraduate level for the first time get to study in semester three the very significant and interesting concept of public administration. It begins with a basic understanding of the concept and its evolution as an academic discipline in the West, mainly the United States of America under the guidance of Charles Friedrich Taylor, Luther Gullick, Urwick and the others. Later it delves into the realm of the various approaches that define the efficiency and effectiveness with which public services are delivered and the offices are maintained. Starting from a scientific and structured management system as defined by Taylor, Gullick and Max Weber, the course goes on to discuss the more humane and ethical initiatives of Elton Mayo, Herbert Simon and Herzberg and Maslow. The students also get to study the micro-level concepts associated with the management of public offices like hierarchy, line and staff, budgeting, coordination, unity of command and centralization and decentralization. The course in keeping the students updated have also included in its purview contemporary approaches to public administration like the New Public Management, Public Choice Schools and the Feminist approach.

### **CC 7: LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN INDIA**

This course provides an insight into the system of local governance in India that began with the enactment of the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts culminating in the establishment of the Panchayati Raj and the Municipalities. The students gain valuable knowledge about the

system of rural and urban local government, the election to these bodies, the functioning of the important bureaucratic offices and their role in the development of grassroots democracy. The students also learn that it is only through effective participation in the system of local government that the civil society could hope to achieve some form of power in democratic decision-making. The impact of globalization have rendered traditional bureaucratic methods redundant and have called for the redressal of public grievances in a time-bound and participatory manner, that in turn have given rise to redressal forums like the Lokpal and Lokayuktas. Thus this paper can be said to have taken a holistic approach in framing the future minds of the subject.

### **GE 3: INDIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

This generic elective paper has been designed to discuss the features of ancient Indian political thought, the political ideas of Kautilya and the science of statecraft. It also makes a comparison of how and to what extent the Indian administration witnessed major changes with the coming of the Mughals. The students here get a step by step unraveling of the political history of India where the paper discusses the socio-economic and cultural heritage of the country as manifested by the ideas of Ram Mohan Roy, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Rabindranath Tagore, Gandhiji and B. R. Ambedkar. They are also the stalwarts of the nationalist movement and the fighters against social malices.

### **SEC 1: LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT**

Following logically from the course on local government, this honours paper on Skill Enhancement Course deals with various facades of the parliamentary process like election to the state legislative assemblies, the law-making procedure, the making of the Union budget, the working of different ministries and the examination of the demand for grants. At this level the students find it easier to understand the topics as they have already dealt with the papers on Constitution, the law-making process, urban and rural local government, democratic theories, the working of the executive, legislature and judiciary. This skill enhancement paper truly gives a finishing touch to the understanding of the democratic governance in India.



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## **SEMESTER IV**

### **CC 8: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

International Relations as an academic discipline gained prominence in the aftermath of World War I. This course starts with the evolution of the discipline of International Relations, its various approaches, nature and scope. The paper has been designed in such a manner that the students get a holistic view of the international political scenario and the concepts that manoeuvre international affairs since long past like national power, balance of power, the making and execution of foreign policies. The single most important event of the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s that dictated world politics has also been discussed in detail, namely the Cold War. Thereafter the issues that have been the major concern among statesmen like globalization, terrorism, human rights, Nuclear Non-Proliferation, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty have held special attention for the students as they come to know of the complexities of the World.

### **CC 9: SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICS**

No discussion on politics is complete without looking at it from an interdisciplinary angle. This course helps the students to critically analyse and place political issues within the context of the larger society. It analyses politics from a sociological point and sociology from a political point. The way society develops and grows have actual repercussions on the development of the political culture of that society, the political apathy or inclinations of its citizens, the way power and authority develop within its realm. The students here also learn about the Feminist school of thought and its various approaches, the relation between environment and politics, the politicization of religion and how secularism is viewed in contemporary society. The paper also delves into the critical relationship between the civil society and the state with the media acting as the third organ of the government.

### **CC 10: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Since the devastation of World War I, first the League of Nations and then the United Nations have played a crucial role in negotiating peace. This course discusses with the students the composition of the United Nations and its various committees and how each committee has been able or unable to perform the task assigned to it. Though the most important part here deals with the peace-building functions of the UN, sufficient attention has also been given to its other social and economic functions. Regional economic organizations like Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are major economic and political negotiators between the East, Middle East and the West. At

the same time students also learn about regional security organizations like the NATO and ARF and organizations like SAARC, ASEAN and BRICS that influence politics in the developing world.

#### **GE 4: INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

This generic elective paper discusses in detail the formation of the Constitution and the events preceding it, the Preamble and the ideals enshrined therein, fundamental rights and duties of the Indian citizens and most importantly the nature of Indian federalism. Thus this course not only imparts knowledge about the nation called India but also prepares the students for any competitive examination where Indian Polity is a major subject. It also discusses the legislative, executive and judicial system of the Centre and the states, the multi-party system of the country and the formation of coalition governments.

#### **SEC 2: DEMOCRATIC AWARENESS THROUGH LEGAL LITERACY**

Awareness is empowerment and this paper empowers the students by informing them about their rights. The government through its legal imperatives, has tried to ensure justice and equality which has eventually culminated in the laws regarding sexual harassment, the prohibition of violence against women, prohibition of dowry, laws against cyber crime and laws for the protection of consumer rights. Further this paper includes such topics as anti-terrorism and protection of human rights, the system of criminal and civil courts in India, women courts and public grievance redressal forums all of which help in strengthening the democratic fabric of India.

### **SEMESTER V**

#### **CC 11: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN INDIA**

Social movements throughout history have helped in the achievement of significant goals. Peaceful movements without arms have brought about significant changes in the social, economic and political thinking of the nation. This course makes a distinction between the new and old social movements, before introducing to the students the various movements conducted through history. The movements of the Dalits for their emancipation, Trade Union movements, peasant movements like the Tebhaga Andolan and the Telangana movement, the struggle of the women against male oppression deserve special mention. They inform the students of the valuable lives devoted and struggle undertaken by so many for the greater good of the society. No discussion on social movements is complete without the



mention of the environmental movements still being carried on in different parts of the country mostly by rural and tribal people to enable the sustaining of life on earth.

## **CC 12: ELEMENTARY RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

A very potent course introducing to the students the first step towards higher education involving research, this paper begins with an understanding about what constitutes social science research and how it is different from pure science research. Then it briefly discusses the theoretical framework of social research before delving into the question of methodology and the difference between qualitative and quantitative research. Here the students also learn about the steps in research designing, problemation, formation of hypothesis and hypothesis testing. Along with the critical concepts associated with research this course also discusses the various data collection techniques in social research and their advantages and limitations.

### **DSE 1: SELECT COMPARATIVE POLITICAL THOUGHT**

This paper enables students to make a comparative analysis of Indian and Western political thought in terms of their origin, central beliefs, value system, position of women, caste-class considerations, religious compulsions, statecraft and rights and duties. It discusses important thinkers of both the developed and developing world like Aristotle, Locke, Rousseau, J. S. Mill, Kautilya, Lokmanya Tilak, Gandhi, Nehru, Ambedkar and Jay Prakash Narayan. In discussing these stalwarts the paper resorts to theoretical background and thematic analysis of the consequent development and progress of the western and Indian society, economy and polity. As such it presents a holistic approach to the concept of political thought.

### **DSE 2: DEMOCRACY AND DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE**

This course deals with the evolution of the state system both in the West and in the Third World before venturing into the meaning and role of sovereignty in a globalized world. Further, the students here gain valuable knowledge about the formation of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and the events leading up to their formation. Integrating history with contemporary International scenarios, the course discusses the shrinking role of the sovereign states in the backdrop of the emergence of multinational corporations and international organizations like the United Nations. The global agenda of the United Nations to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of living within 2030, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals, has found special mention in this paper and thus the



dynamics of global crisis open up to the students. It also discusses the role of new social movements as agents of change and the significant input of the Non-Governmental Organizations.

## **SEMESTER VI**

### **CC 13: INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY**

The young minds studying political science would definitely be interested in the complex system of international relations and how India over the years have tackled the challenge. The paper deals with such topics as the determinants of India's foreign policy as in geographical factors, the role of the parliament, the PMO and the cabinet. The students learn about the multiple nuances of India's engagement with the superpowers like the USA and Russia and India's neighbours like China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The paper critically analyses the international political future of India and informs the students of the imperatives that drive India's foreign policy.

### **CC 14: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN INDIA**

Dealing with social maladies, this course provides pertinent information to the students that are of immense value not only in the field of education but for personal development, development of critical thinking, awareness building and for fighting against injustice. The issues, which, have weakened the democratic fabric of India include casteist consideration of political phenomenon or in other words castecization of politics or politicization of caste, violence and oppression against women, aggressive nationalism and communal hatred together with pseudo-secularism, politicization of religion and politicization of development planning. The course also deals with such topics as the relation between poverty and inequality and the political economy behind it, the policies of the government towards the socially backward classes and disaster management techniques undertaken.

### **DSE 3: PUBLIC POLICY: CONCEPT AND IMPLICATIONS IN INDIA**

The course deals with the meaning of public policy, its basic ingredients and the major actors in public policy-making. To maintain a parity and continuation so that the students can understand the changes, this paper starts with a discussion of the public policies undertaken in India since independence before delving into the contemporary society. The paper has picked up two very important policies serving as the basis of a self-reliant and decentralized socio-political order i.e. National Rural Health Mission and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Besides, the learners also get to know of the major constraints facing successful implementation of

development policies today that are embedded in the society, its economic order, its political system and its cultural backwardness.

#### **DSE 4: POLITICAL ECONOMY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Starting with Robert Gilpin's idea of political economy, it seeks to explain the evolution of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the GATT. It informs the students of how the GATT culminated into the World Trade Organization, while discussing the relation between the World Trade Organization with the Third World countries and the structural and functional complexities of the WTO. Labelling WTO as the prime mover of the contemporary world economy, the paper also informs the students about the recent trends in global trade and finance.

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