

Learning outcome Based Curriculum Framework

(Based on UGC LOCF)

Name of Programme: B.A HONS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Program Objectives and Outcomes

The undergraduate course in Political science shapes graduate sensibilities such that students are alert to instances of discrimination and deprivation; difference and diversity which they not only identify but can also persuasively argue about.

Students get aware of the unique location of the discipline within the social sciences and can contextual their learning within the disciplinary boundaries while simultaneously and consciously using inter-disciplinary methods and concepts to understand inter-connected social, economic and political realities.

Learners go through rigorous training in academic writing which includes writing logical and coherent essays as well as longer research articles in terms of term papers.

Class room debate and discussion encourages them to think on their feet; sharpen their submissions and argue persuasively. They are also introduced to a variety of writing including commentaries and original manuscripts; government reports and alternative assessments as well as visual and print media.

The discipline teaches students how to distinguish between various ideological orientations; the multiple lens that may be used to make sense of the same political event or issue and thereby how to side-step biases and partisan positions in presenting their findings. The discipline inculcates a culture of academic honesty and investigative rigour to ensure authentic analytical outcomes. The syllabus of the undergraduate course on Political science also encourages students to get hands on experience of how research in the discipline is conducted. They are encouraged to draw up research questionnaires, select the field and decide on sample size and method of selection, conduct interviews with respondents as well as focused group discussions and finally translate the responses into a coherent write up. These exercises are not limited to election analysis and collecting voter responses but are primarily conducted to teach the student how to transition from the level of policy to the practice of politics.

Political Science Honours Program also imparts extensive understanding of International relations and global politics which allows them to move beyond the traditional area and concerns of the discipline. The course not only introduces them to various theories and concepts within international relations but also includes detailed discussion of contemporary international events and decisions made by state and non-state actors apart from also looking at the functioning of global and multinational organisations and institutions. The perspective sharpens their understanding of the national and they can better appreciate the nuances of state policies. The comparative perspective which students imbibe through courses in two semesters highlights the differences in states mapped along various indices such as development trajectories and state formation.

The study of Indian politics provides the student a means to understand what politics in India reflects. Students decode this through various categories including gender, caste, class, ethnicity and

others while also effortlessly transiting across various levels of the national, sub-national and local. These courses anchor the indispensability of the inter and multi-disciplinary lens and provide a corrective and challenge to the western frameworks and models of understanding political phenomena.

On the completion of the six semesters undergraduate course in Political science a graduate is therefore equipped with an understanding of the six core areas in the discipline of political science namely Political theory, Indian politics, Comparative politics, Public Administration, International relations and Indian Political Thought. They carry with them an understanding of research methods and investigation as well as field experience of institutional functioning and survey research. Given this diverse skill set and knowledge basket that the graduates have; the learning outcomes enable them to seek gainful employment and engagement in diverse sectors such as academics, journalism, law, social work, government agencies and research organisations, human resource development, management, marketing and also the bureaucracy.

CREDIT/MARKS DISTRIBUTION FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE HONOURS

Core course – CC – 14 Core courses – 6 Credits/Paper

Generic Elective – GE – 4 courses - 6 Credits/Paper

Discipline Specific Elective – DSE -4 courses - 6 Credits/Paper

Skill Enhancement Courses - SEC – 2 Courses – 2 Credits/paper

A) CORE COURSE (14) – COURSE TITLES

Semester - I

PLSACOR01T – CC1.1- Paper I- Understanding Political Theory

PLSACOR02T – CC1.2 -Paper II- Constitutional Government and Democracy in India

Semester - II

PLSACOR03T - CC2.1 Paper III – Political Theory-Concepts and Debates

PLSACOR04T - CC 2.2 Paper IV- Political Process in India

Semester - III

PLSACOR05T - CC3.1 Paper V- Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics

PLSACOR06T - CC3.2 Paper VI –Perspectives on Public Administration

PLSACOR07T - CC3.3 Paper VII- Perspectives on International Relations and World History

Semester - IV

PLSACOR08T - CC4.1 Paper VIII- Political Processes and Institutions in Comparative Perspective

PLSACOR09T - CC4.2 Paper IX- Public Policy and Administration in India

PLSACOR10T - CC4.3 Paper X- Global Politics

Semester - V

PLSACOR11T - CC5.1 Paper XI- Classical Political Philosophy

PLSACOR12T - CC5.2 Paper XII- Indian Political Thought-I

Semester - VI

PLSACOR13T - CC6.1 Paper XIII- Modern Political Philosophy

PLSACOR14T - CC6.2 Paper XIV- Indian Political Thought-II

C) PLSSEC - SKILL ENHANCEMENT COURSE: Any Two (Sem.-3 & 4)

Semester – III

1. PLSSEC01M Democratic Awareness with Legal Literacy

Semester – IV

2. PLSSEC02M Public Opinion and Survey Research

D) PLSADSE - DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE(DSE): Any Four (Sem.-V and VI)

Semester – V(Any two): (The Highlighted ones are offered in college)

1. PLSADSE01T Reading Gandhi

2. PLSADSE02T Women, Power and Politics

3. PLSADSE03T Understanding Global Politics

Semester – VI (Any two) (The Highlighted ones are offered in college)

4. PLSADSE04T Public Policy in India

5. PLSADSE05T Human Rights in a Comparative Perspective

6. PLSADSE06T Governance: Issues and Challenges

Course Learning Objectives and Outcomes

A. Core Papers

Paper – 1 Understanding Political Theory

This course introduces the students to the idea of political theory, its history and approaches, and an assessment of its critical and contemporary trends and is designed to reconcile political theory and practice through reflections on the ideas and practices related to democracy.

Course Learning Outcomes

After reading the course, the learner would

- Understand the various traditions and approaches of political theory and appreciate how they get reflected in organizing social living
- Understand multiple frames by which the idea of political community is debated
- Understand the significance of theorizing and of applying theory into practice

Paper – 2 Constitutional Government and Democracy in India

Objectives

This course acquaints students with the constitutional design of state structures and institutions, and their actual working over time. It further encourages a study of state institutions in their mutual interaction, and in interaction with the larger extra-constitutional environment.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students shall:

- be familiarized with the debates around the origin, and evolution of the Indian constitution.
- become aware of the manner in which government functions through its various organs.
- understand the division of power between various organs of the government at different levels.
- develop an understanding of the tenets of Indian constitutionalism by engaging with Constituent Assembly debates.
- understand the working of different organs of government and analyse the interaction amongst them which often involves both conflict and cooperation. Moreover, it enables the students to understand the division of powers in Indian federal set-up and its asymmetrical federal arrangements, with special emphasis on the special provisions for governance in fifth and sixth schedules of the constitution.
- be familiarized with the process of rural and urban governance and the dynamics of gender and caste in these domains; and with challenges of addressing emergency conditions and security concerns within the constitutional framework

Paper – 3 Political Theory-Concepts and Debates

Objectives

This course helps the student familiarize with the basic normative concepts of political theory. Each concept is related to a crucial political issue that requires analysis with the aid of our conceptual understanding. This exercise is designed to encourage critical and reflective analysis and

interpretation of social practices through the relevant conceptual toolkit. It further introduces the students to the important debates in the subject.

Course Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, the learner will be able to:

- Understand the dimensions of shared living (sociare) through these political values and concepts.
- Appreciate how these values and concepts enrich the discourses of political life, sharpening their analytical skills in the process

Paper – 4 Political Process in India

Objectives

This course maps the working of ‘modern’ institutions, premised on the existence of an individuated society, in a context marked by communitarian solidarities, and their mutual transformation thereby. It also familiarizes students with the working of the Indian state, paying attention to the contradictory dynamics of modern state power.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course students shall:

- gain insights into the interconnections between social and economic relations and the political process in India.
- understand the challenges arising due to caste, class, gender and religious diversities and also analyse the changing nature of the Indian state in the light of these diversities.
- make sense of the specificities of the political processes in India in the light of changes of the state practices, electoral system, representational forms and electoral behaviour.

Paper 5 Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics

Objective

This is a foundational course in comparative politics. The purpose is to familiarize students with the basic concepts and approaches to the study of comparative politics. More specifically the course will focus on examining politics in a historical framework while engaging with various themes of comparative analysis in developed and developing countries.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course students shall:

- understand the legacy of the discipline.
- be familiarized with different political systems from different continents across the world, a range of political regimes, culture and their political economy.
- learn to delineate ways to understand how state relates to the economy and how culture shapes the political discourse in a particular context.
- be able to use analytical frame of gender, race, ethnicity and their intersectionality in comparative perspective.
- develop reflective thinking and ability to ask relevant questions pertinent to the discipline, and also aptitude for research.

Paper 6 Perspectives on Public Administration

Objectives

The course provides an introduction to the discipline of public administration. This paper encompasses public administration in its historical context with an emphasis on the various classical and contemporary administrative theories. The course also explores some of the recent trends, including feminism and ecological conservation and how the call for greater democratization is restructuring public administration. The course will also attempt to provide the students a comprehensive understanding on contemporary administrative developments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- The student will be able to understand an overview of the discipline and how it is different from private administration.
- The student will be introduced to the evolution of the discipline, its changing contours through a study of the different theories, ranging from the classical, neo-classical and contemporary theories.
- The students will be better equipped to analyse processes of leadership and conflict management that have become increasingly significant in contemporary administration.
- The student learns about major contemporary approaches in public administration.
- The student is specially made sensitive to the feminist perspective in Public administration.

Paper 7 Perspectives on International Relations and World History

Objectives

This paper seeks to equip students with the basic intellectual tools for understanding International Relations. It introduces students to some of the most important theoretical approaches for studying international relations. The course begins by historically contextualizing the evolution of the international state system; then the students are introduced to different theories in International Relations. It provides a fairly comprehensive overview of the major political developments and events starting from the twentieth century. Students are expected to learn about the key milestones in world history and equip them with the tools to understand and analyze the same from different perspectives. A key objective of the course is to make students aware of the implicit Euro - centrism of International Relations by highlighting certain specific perspectives from the Global South.

Course Learning Outcomes

- The students will have a comprehensive understanding of both historical processes and contemporary practices in International Relations.
- Major theoretical perspectives will broaden the critical insight and inculcate among students the significance and rigor of the study of international relations.
- The paper will go beyond eurocentrism in international relations and reflect on the global South perspectives.
- It will evolve analytical skills to further explore both theoretical and actual key milestones in international relations.

Paper 8 Political Processes and Institutions in Comparative Perspective

Objectives

In this course students will be trained in the application of comparative methods to the study of politics. The course is comparative in both what we study and how we study. In the process the course aims to introduce undergraduate students to some of the range of issues, literature, and methods that cover comparative political arena.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course students shall:

- understand different political systems and regime types.
- contrast unitary and federal, democratic and authoritarian systems.
- develop analytical skills to reflect institutional structures and their functioning such as party systems, electoral systems. The course will provide insight into the process of evolution of nation state in the context of West and post-colonial societies.
- develop insights into the process of democratization in post-colonial, post authoritarian and post-communist societies.

Paper-9 Public Policy and Administration in India

Objectives

The paper seeks to provide an introduction to the interface between public policy and administration in India. The essence of public policy lies in its effectiveness in translating the governing philosophy into programs and policies and making it a part of the community living. It deals with issues of decentralization, financial management, citizens and administration and social welfare from a non-western perspective.

Course Learning Outcomes

- The student is introduced to theoretical perspectives on public policy, a major sub discipline of public administration.
- This is a paper devoted specially to the Indian context, so the student will become familiar with details of public policy adopted in India.
- Students will recognize the significance of local governance – both rural and urban.
- The students will become familiar with a range of budgetary procedures and practices, as part of the budget cycle in India.
- The student is exposed to mechanisms of grievance redressal and a range of specific social welfare policies.

Paper 10 Global Politics

Objectives

This course introduces students to the key debates on the meaning and nature of globalization by addressing its political, economic, social, cultural and technological dimensions. It imparts an understanding of the working of the world economy, while analyzing the changing nature of relationship between the state and trans-national actors and networks. The course also offers insights into key contemporary global issues.

Course Learning Outcomes

- The students will have conceptual clarity on meaning, nature and significance of globalization.
- The students will learn about the contemporary debates on the discourse of globalization.
- The students will also learn about the rise of financial networks and major actors of global economy and their impact on state and sovereignty.
- The paper will enhance students' understanding of contemporary global issues like proliferation of nuclear weapons, ecology, international terrorism and human security.
- The paper will develop analytical skills of the students to reflect on the phenomenon of global governance

Paper 11 Indian Political Thought-I

Objectives

This course introduces the specific elements of Indian Political Thought spanning over two millennia. The basic focus of study is on individual thinkers whose ideas are however framed by specific themes. The course as a whole is meant to provide a sense of the broad streams of Indian thought while encouraging a specific knowledge of individual thinkers and texts. Selected extracts from some original texts are also given to discuss in class.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Having successfully completed this course, student will be able to:
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of basic concepts of ancient and medieval Indian political thought that are prevalent traditions of thought in India
- develop a comparative understanding of Indian and western political thought.
- identify and describe the key characteristics of Indian political thought and develop a strong understanding of selected historiographical debates

Paper 12 Classical Political Philosophy

Objectives

This course goes back to Greek antiquity and familiarizes the students with the manner in which the political questions were first posed and are being answered in normative ways. The aim is to introduce to the students the questions, ideas and values of political philosophy which are being addressed by the political philosophers as part of contemporary political thinking. In this manner students would be familiarized with the theoretical origins of key concepts in political science.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students would be able to:

- Understand how to read and decode the classics and use them to solve contemporary socio-political problems.
- Connect with historically written texts and can interpret it in familiar way (the way Philosophers think).
- Clearly present their own arguments and thoughts about contemporary issues and develop ideas to solve them through logical validation.
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Paper 13 Modern Political Philosophy

Objectives

This course aims to expose the students to the manner in which the questions of politics have been posed in terms that have implications for larger questions of thought and existence in society and is being solved. By introducing the philosophers from different traditions students will be able to answer few fundamental political questions: Why do we live in political communities? What is the 'best' form of government? How human nature influences political decision making? How and in what circumstances we need to resist bad rulers?

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students would be able to:

- Understand the idea of modernity and establish a connection between societal changes posed through modernity and its prescribed political suggestions.
- Identify various tendencies in political philosophical discourse and manage to answer various fundamental questions through problem-solving aptitude.

Paper 14 Indian Political Thought-II

Objectives

Based on the study of individual thinkers, the course introduces a wide span of thinkers and themes that defines the modernity of Indian political thought. The objective is to study general themes that have been produced by thinkers from varied social and temporal contexts.

Course Learning outcome

At the end of the course the students will be able to:

- Have a critical understanding about modern Indian thought.
- locate the topical debates on important subjects on a historical trajectory and reflect over the diverse possibilities exhibited in the writings of the respective thinkers.
- Think about issues and debates in contemporary India from multiple vantage points including its historical significance in the Indian tradition.
- Develop toleration and respect for diverse opinion and at the same time, to admire and appreciate the plurality within the modern Indian intellectual tradition.

B. Discipline Specific Electives

DSE 1: Reading Gandhi

Course Objective

Locating Gandhi in a global frame, the course seeks to elaborate Gandhian thought and examine its practical implications. It will introduce students to key instances of Gandhi's continuing influence right up to the contemporary period and enable them to critically evaluate his legacy.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course the students will be able to

- develop an understanding of Gandhian philosophy in a critical and analytical manner.
- describe the impact of Gandhian thought on Indian and global politics.
- identify and explain selected approaches and methods that historians have used to study the history of anti-colonial Indian politics.

DSE 3: Understanding Global Politics

Course Objectives

The objective of this generic elective paper is to make students from diverse background understand the process of globalization from a political perspective. This paper will create a broad understanding of the issues and processes globalization based on critical analysis of the various anchors and dimensions of globalization.

Course Learning Outcomes

- The students will learn about the nature, significance and contemporary debates around globalization.
- The study of various approaches and concepts of globalization and the role of international economic organizations will augment students' knowledge on international political economy.
- The course will provide an insight into the alternative understanding of globalization and various critical aspects related to it.
- The paper will equip students with a comprehensive knowledge of the impact of globalization on developing countries in the context of contemporary international issues like civil society, social movements and human migration, ecological and environmental issues.

DSE 5: Human Rights in a Comparative Perspective

Objectives

The aim of the course is to make students aware about the different strands in the debates on human rights and its evolution through historical and contemporary times. The course aims at providing students conceptual tools to understand what the different generations of rights are; and the new concerns that have emerged in the recent past. It will make students aware about the institutionalisation of the human rights and will provide knowledge on the constitutional frameworks of human rights especially in South Africa and in India. It intends further to develop analytical skills of students to reflect on the issues of structural violence and human rights in developed and developing countries. The objective is to enable students to gain insight into

comparative state response to issues such as terrorism, surveillance & censorship and gender-based violence. A range of resources, including films, biographies, and official documents would be used to study each theme.

Course Learning Outcomes

The course will:

- equip students with an understanding of debates on human rights through a comparative study of human rights concerns in different countries.
- familiarise students with the historical evolution of human rights and the theoretical frameworks and core themes that inform the debates on human rights.
- enhance the students' understanding of state response to issues and human rights questions pertaining to structural violence, such as torture, terrorism, insecurity of minority communities, caste, race, gender-based violence and rights of adivasis from the human rights perspective.

DSE 6: Governance: Issues and Challenges

Objectives

This paper deals with concepts and different dimensions of governance highlighting the major debates in the contemporary times. There is a need to understand the importance of the concept of governance in the context of a globalising world, environment, administration, development. The essence of governance is explored through the various good governance initiatives introduced in India.

Course Learning Outcomes

- The students are acquainted with the changing nature of governance in the era of globalization.
- The students are introduced to the most contemporary ideas of sustainable development and green governance.
- The students become familiar with a rigorous introduction to the best practices in India on good governance.

C. Skill Enhancement Courses

SEC 1: Democratic Awareness with Legal Literacy

Objective

Course Objective: The Proposed course aims to acquaint student with the structure and manner of functioning of the legal system in India, to understand law as a source of rights, and as a progressively widening sphere of justice, welfare, and dignity. This relationship between laws and rights will be studied through specific values which have come to be seen as integral for a democratic society viz., equality and non-discrimination, empowerment, redistribution and recognition of traditional rights etc.

Course Learning Outcome

On the successful completion of the course, students would be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of law as a source of right.
- Develop an understanding of democratic values such as equality, justice etc. and learn about different laws enacted to uphold these values.
- Demonstrate an awareness of democratic rights guaranteed to Indian citizens and persons
- Develop skills related to using ordinary legal procedures to safeguard the rights guaranteed to citizens and persons
- Show basic awareness of ordinary procedures such as obtaining different kinds of identity documents
- Show understanding of the structure and principles of the Indian legal system

SEC 2: Public Opinion and Survey Research

Course Objective

This course will introduce the students to the debates, principles and practices of public opinion polls in the context of democracies, with special reference to India. It will familiarize the students with the principles and practice of survey research and conceptualizing and measuring public opinion using quantitative methods. The course will give special attention to developing basic skills pertaining to the collection, analysis and utilization of quantitative data.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

- Understand the importance of public opinion in a democracy and the role of survey research in comprehending the working of a democratic political system
- Learn about the methods used for conducting surveys and interpreting survey data
- Acquire basic skill sets related to understanding public opinion formation and conducting research through the use of sample date, framing a questionnaire, etc.
- Acquire basic skill sets related to measurement of public opinion such as data analysis using statistical methods.

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