

DSC – I - INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY

Course Objective: This course aims to introduce certain key aspects of conceptual analysis in political theory and the skills required to engage in debates surrounding the application of the concepts.

1.
 - a. What is Politics?
 - b. What is Political Theory and what is its relevance? (11 lectures)
2. Concepts: Democracy, Liberty, Equality, Justice, Rights, Gender, Citizenship, Civil Society and State (36 lectures)
3. Debates in Political Theory:
 - a. Is democracy compatible with economic growth?
 - b. On what grounds is censorship justified and what are its limits?
 - c. Does protective discrimination violate principles of fairness?
 - d. Should the State intervene in the institution of the family? (13 lectures)

Essential Readings:

Topic I

Bhargava, R. (2008) 'What is Political Theory', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 2-17.

Bhargava, R. (2008) 'Why Do We Need Political Theory', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 18-37.

Topic 2

Sriranjani, V. (2008) 'Liberty', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 40-57.

Acharya, A. (2008) 'Equality', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 58-73.

- Menon, K. (2008) 'Justice', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 74-82.
- Talukdar, P.S. (2008) 'Rights', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 88-105.
- Srinivasan, J. (2008) 'Democracy', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 106-128.
- Roy, A. 'Citizenship', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 130-147.
- Das, S. (2008) 'State', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 170-187.
- Singh, M. (2008) 'Civil Society', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 188-205.
- Menon, N. (2008) 'Gender', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 224-235.
- Shorten, A. (2008) 'Nation and State', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 33-55.
- Christiano, Thomas. (2008) 'Democracy', in McKinnon, Catriona. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 80-96.
- Riley, J. (2008) 'Liberty', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 103-125.
- Casal, P. & William, A. (2008) 'Equality', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 149- 165.
- Wolf, J. (2008) 'Social Justice', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 172-193.

Brighouse, H. (2008) 'Citizenship', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 241-259.

Chambers, C. (2008) 'Gender', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 241-288.

Swift, A. (2001) *Political Philosophy: A Beginners Guide for Students and Politicians*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Topic 3

Sen, A. (2003) 'Freedom Favours Development,' in Dahl, R., Shapiro, I. and Cheibub, A. J. (eds.) *The Democracy Sourcebook*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, pp. 444-446.

Prezowski, A., et al. (2003) 'Political Regimes and Economic Growth,' in Dahl, R., Shapiro, I. and Cheibub, A. J. (eds.) *The Democracy Sourcebook*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, pp. 447-454.

Sethi, A. (2008) 'Freedom of Speech and the Question of Censorship', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 308-319.

Acharya, A. (2008) 'Affirmative Action', in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 298-307.

Frances E O. (1985) 'The Myth of State Intervention in the Family', *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform*. 18 (4), pp. 835-64.

Jha, M. (2001) 'Ramabai: Gender and Caste', in Singh, M.P. and Roy, H. (eds.) *Indian Political Thought: Themes and Thinkers*, New Delhi: Pearson.