Course Objective: This course is divided into two sections. Section A 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. Section B introduces the students to the important debates in the subject. These debates prompt us to consider that there is no settled way of understanding concepts and that in the light of new insights and challenges, besides newer ways of perceiving and interpreting the world around us, we inaugurate new modes of political debates.

Section A: Core Concepts

I. Importance of Freedom (10 Lectures)
   a) Negative Freedom: Liberty
   b) Positive Freedom: Freedom as Emancipation and Development

   Important Issue: Freedom of belief, expression and dissent

II. Significance of Equality (12 lectures)
   a) Formal Equality: Equality of opportunity
   b) Political equality
   c) Egalitarianism: Background inequalities and differential treatment

   Important Issue: Affirmative action

III. Indispensability of Justice (12 Lectures)
   a) Procedural Justice
   b) Distributive Justice
   c) Global Justice

   Important Issue: Capital punishment

IV. The Universality of Rights (13 Lectures)
   a) Natural Rights
   b) Moral and Legal Rights
   c) Three Generations of Rights
   d) Rights and Obligations
Important Issue: Rights of the girl child

Section B: Major Debates (13 Lectures)

I. Why should we obey the state? Issues of political obligation and civil disobedience.


III. How do we accommodate diversity in plural society? Issues of multiculturalism and toleration.

Essential Readings

Section A: Core Concepts

I. Importance of Freedom


II. Significance of Equality


III. Indispensability of Justice


IV. The Universality of Rights


Section B: Major Debates


