

Course Code: DPOL101

Course Title: POLITICAL THEORY

Unit 1 Nature and Significance of Political Theory: Meaning, nature, characteristics and varieties of political theory; traditions of political theory; classical political theory; uses of political theory.

Unit 2 Power and Authority: Distinction of power from force, influence and authority; authority, legitimacy and influence; nature of authority; legitimacy; influence.

Unit 3 State: Meaning and concept of the state; important elements of the state; theories of the origin of the state.

Unit 4 Sovereignty: Concept of sovereignty; evaluation of the concept of sovereignty; legal sovereignty; Austin's theory of sovereignty; external sovereignty and contemporary problems.

Unit 5 Pluralism: Meaning and concept of pluralism; elements assisting in the origin of pluralism; main features of pluralism; criticism of pluralism.

Unit 6 Rights: Meaning and nature of rights; basis of rights; human rights; legitimacy of rights.

Unit 7 Economic and Social Rights: Meaning and significance of economic rights; right to work, proper wages, leave, fixed working hours and economic security; social rights.

Unit 8 Liberty: Meaning of liberty; two views of liberty—negative and positive; limits of negative and positive liberty and the need to go beyond these paradigms; John Stuart Mill and the value of liberty; liberty as emancipation and the Marxist notion of freedom; liberty of expression and belief.

Unit 9 Equality: Meaning of equality; various dimensions of equality; equality of opportunity.

Unit 10 Justice: Meaning and concepts of justice; procedural justice; Rawls' theory of justice; global justice.

Unit 11 Social Justice: Meaning and concept of social justice; social equality and non-discrimination; equality before law; Ambedkar's view on social justice.

Unit 12 Public Welfare and Welfare State: Evaluation of the public welfare state; definition of public welfare state; functions of public welfare state; democracy and public welfare state; function of the modern state or proper sphere of state action.

Unit 13 The Market and Public Welfare: Market and public welfare; dimensions of equality; liberty and equality; equality and justice; liberty; liberty and licence; law and liberty; dimensions of liberty.

Unit 14 The Public Interest and Democracy: Public interest; democracy; theories of democracy; pluralist theory of democracy; Marxist theory of democracy or concepts of people's democracy.