

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

				Semester:	6	Paper No:	16
Paper Title:	WESTERN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY – II						

Maximum Marks: 100

Total Lectures and Student Presentations: 60

Course objective: Philosophy and politics are closely intertwined. We explore this convergence by identifying four main tendencies here. Students will be exposed to the manner in which the questions of politics have been posed in terms that have implications for larger questions of thought and existence.

I. Modernity and its discourses (8 lectures)

This section will introduce students to the idea of modernity and the discourses around modernity. Two essential readings have been prescribed.

II. Romantics (16 lectures)

a. Jean Jacques Rousseau (8 Lectures)

Presentation themes: General Will; local or direct democracy; self-government; origin of inequality.

b. Mary Wollstonecraft (8 Lectures)

Presentation themes: Women and paternalism; critique of Rousseau's idea of education; legal rights

III. Liberal socialist (8 lectures)

a. John Stuart Mill

Presentation themes: Liberty, suffrage and subjection of women, right of minorities; utility principle.

IV. Radicals (16 lectures)

a. Karl Marx (8 Lectures)

Presentation themes: Alienation; difference with other kinds of materialism; class struggle

b. Alexandra Kollontai (8 Lectures)

Presentation themes: Winged and wingless Eros; proletarian woman; socialization of housework; disagreement with Lenin

I. Modernity and its discourses

Essential Readings:

I. Kant. (1784) 'What is Enlightenment?', Available at <http://theliterarylink.com/kant.html>, Accessed: 19.04.2013

S. Hall (1992) 'Introduction', in *Formations of Modernity* UK: Polity Press pages 1-16

II. Romantics

Essential Readings:

B. Nelson, (2008) *Western Political Thought*. New York: Pearson Longman, pp. 221-255.

M. Keens-Soper, (2003) 'Jean Jacques Rousseau: The Social Contract', in M. Forsyth and M. Keens-Soper, (eds) *A Guide to the Political Classics: Plato to Rousseau*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 171-202.

C. Jones, (2002) 'Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindications* and their Political Tradition' in C. Johnson, (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Mary Wollstonecraft*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 42-58.

S. Ferguson, (1999) 'The Radical Ideas of Mary Wollstonecraft', in *Canadian Journal of Political Science* XXXII (3), pp. 427-50, Available at <http://digitalcommons.ryerson.ca/politics>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

III. Liberal Socialist

Essential Readings:

H. Magid, (1987) 'John Stuart Mill', in L. Strauss and J. Cropsey, (eds), *History of Political Philosophy*, 2nd edition. Chicago: Chicago University Press, pp. 784-801.

P. Kelly, (2003) 'J.S. Mill on Liberty', in D. Boucher, and P. Kelly, (eds.) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 324-359.

IV. Radicals

Essential Readings:

J. Cropsey, (1987) 'Karl Marx', in L. Strauss and J. Cropsey, (eds) *History of Political Philosophy*, 2nd Edition. Chicago: Chicago University Press, pp. 802-828.

L. Wilde, (2003) 'Early Marx', in D. Boucher and P. Kelly, P. (eds) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 404-435.

V. Bryson, (1992) 'Marxist Feminism in Russia' in *Feminist Political Theory*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 114-122

C. Sypnowich, (1993) 'Alexandra Kollontai and the Fate of Bolshevik Feminism' *Labour/Le Travail* Vol. 32 (Fall 1992) pp. 287-295

A. Kollontai (1909), *The Social Basis of the Woman Question*, Available at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/kollonta/1909/social-basis.htm>, Accessed: 19.04.2013

Additional Readings:

A. Bloom, (1987) 'Jean-Jacques Rousseau', in Strauss, L. and Cropsey, J. (eds.) *History of Political Philosophy*, 2nd edition. Chicago: Chicago University Press, pp. 559-580.

Selections from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Available at <http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/wollstonecraft/woman-a.html#CHAPTER%20II>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

A. Skoble and T. Machan, (2007) *Political Philosophy: Essential Selections*, New Delhi: Pearson Education, pp. 328-354.

B. Ollman (1991) *Marxism: An Uncommon Introduction*, New Delhi: Sterling Publishers.

G. Blakely and V. Bryson (2005) *Marx and Other Four Letter Words*, London: Pluto

- A. Skoble, and T. Machan, (2007) *Political Philosophy: Essential Selections*, New Delhi: Pearson Education, pp. 286-327.
- A. Kollontai, (1977) 'Social Democracy and the Women's Question', in *Selected Writings of Alexandra Kollontai*, London: Allison & Busby, pp. 29-74.
- A. Kollontai, (1977) 'Make Way for Winged Eros: A Letter to the Youth', in *Selected Writings of Alexandra Kollontai* Allison & Busby, pp. 201-292.
- C. Porter, (1980) *Alexandra Kollontai: The Lonely Struggle of the Woman who defied Lenin*, New York: Dutton Children's Books.