

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

				Semester:	5	Paper No:	12
Paper Title:	WESTERN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY – I						

Maximum Marks: 100

Total Lectures and Student Presentations: 60

Course objective: This course goes back to Greek antiquity and familiarizes students with the manner in which the political questions were first posed. Machiavelli comes as an interlude inaugurating modern politics followed by Hobbes and Locke. This is a basic foundation course for students.

I. Text and Interpretation

(2 weeks)

II. Antiquity

Plato

(2 weeks)

Philosophy and Politics, Theory of Forms, Justice, Philosopher King/Queen, Communism
Presentation theme: Critique of Democracy; Women and Guardianship, Censorship

Aristotle

(2 weeks)

Forms, Virtue, Citizenship, Justice, State and Household

Presentation themes: Classification of governments; man as zoon politikon

III. Interlude:

Machiavelli

(2 weeks)

Virtu, Religion, Republicanism

Presentation themes: morality and statecraft; vice and virtue

IV. Possessive Individualism

Hobbes

(2 weeks)

Human nature, State of Nature, Social Contract, State

Presentation themes: State of nature; social contract; Leviathan; atomistic individuals.

Locke

(2 weeks)

Laws of Nature, Natural Rights, Property,

Presentation themes: Natural rights; right to dissent; justification of property

I. Text and Interpretation

Essential Readings:

T. Ball, (2004) 'History and Interpretation' in C. Kukathas and G. Gaus, (eds.) *Handbook of Political Theory*, London: Sage Publications Ltd. pp. 18-30.

B. Constant, (1833) 'The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns', in D. Boaz, (ed), (1997) *The Libertarian Reader*, New York: The Free Press.

Additional Readings:

J. Coleman, (2000) 'Introduction', in *A History of Political Thought: From Ancient Greece to Early Christianity*, Oxford : Blackwell Publishers, pp. 1-20.

Q. Skinner, (2010) 'Preface', in *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought Volume I*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press pp. ix-xv.

II. Antiquity:

Plato

Essential Readings:

A. Skoble and T. Machan, (2007) *Political Philosophy: Essential Selections*. New Delhi: Pearson Education, pp. 9-32.

R. Kraut, (1996) 'Introduction to the study of Plato', in R. Kraut (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-50.

C. Reeve, (2009) 'Plato', in D. Boucher and P. Kelly, (eds) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 62-80

Additional Readings:

S. Okin, (1992) 'Philosopher Queens and Private Wives', in S. Okin *Women in Western Political Thought*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 28-50

R. Kraut, (1996) 'The Defence of Justice in Plato's Republic', in R. Kraut (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 311-337

T. Saunders, (1996) 'Plato's Later Political Thought', in R. Kraut (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 464-492.

Aristotle

Essential Readings:

A. Skoble and T. Machan, (2007) *Political Philosophy: Essential Selections*. New Delhi: Pearson Education, pp. 53-64.

T. Burns, (2009) 'Aristotle', in D. Boucher, and P. Kelly, (eds) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.81-99.

C. Taylor, (1995) 'Politics', in J. Barnes (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 232-258

Additional Readings:

J. Coleman, (2000) 'Aristotle', in J. Coleman *A History of Political Thought: From Ancient Greece to Early Christianity*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, pp.120-186

D. Hutchinson, (1995) 'Ethics', in J. Barnes, (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 195-232.

III. Interlude:

Machiavelli

Essential Readings:

- A. Skoble and T. Machan, (2007) *Political Philosophy: Essential Selections*. New Delhi: Pearson Education, pp. 124-130
- Q. Skinner, (2000) 'The Adviser to Princes', in *Machiavelli: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 23-53
- J. Femia, (2009) 'Machiavelli', in D. Boucher, and P. Kelly, (eds) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 163-184

Additional Reading:

- Q. Skinner, (2000) 'The Theorist of Liberty', in *Machiavelli: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 54-87.

IV. Possessive Individualism

Hobbes

Essential Readings:

- A. Skoble and T. Machan, (2007) *Political Philosophy: Essential Selections*. New Delhi: Pearson Education pp. 131-157.
- D. Baumgold, (2009) 'Hobbes', in D. Boucher and P. Kelly (eds) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 189-206.
- C. Macpherson (1962) *The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism: Hobbes to Locke*. Oxford University Press, Ontario, pp. 17-29.

Additional Readings:

- I. Hampsher-Monk, (2001) 'Thomas Hobbes', in *A History of Modern Political Thought: Major Political Thinkers from Hobbes to Marx*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, pp. 1-67.
- A. Ryan, (1996) 'Hobbes's political philosophy', in T. Sorell, (ed.) *Cambridge Companion to Hobbes*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 208-245.

Locke

Essential Readings:

- A. Skoble and T. Machan, (2007) *Political Philosophy: Essential Selections*. New Delhi: Pearson Education, pp. 181-209.
- J. Waldron, (2009) 'John Locke', in D. Boucher and P. Kelly, (eds) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 207-224
- C. Macpherson, (1962) *The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism: Hobbes to Locke*. Oxford University Press, Ontario, pp. 194-214.

Additional Readings:

- R. Ashcraft, (1999) 'Locke's Political Philosophy', in V. Chappell (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Locke*, Cambridge. Cambridge University Press, pp. 226-251.
- I. Hampsher-Monk, (2001) *A History of Modern Political Thought: Major Political Thinkers from Hobbes to Marx*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, pp. 69-116