

Directorate of Distance Education

Syllabus

for

M.A. Course in Political Science



**Directorate of Distance Education
Department of Political Science
Vidyasagar University
Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal
PIN – 721 102**

Subject: Political Science

(Syllabus based on Credit System)

Part – I: 400 marks	Part – II: 400 marks	Total: 800 marks
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M.A. Part I

TYPE	PAPER	TOPIC	CREDIT	FULL MARKS
THEORETICAL	I	Contemporary Political Thought: Indian and Western	12	100
	II	Politics in India	12	100
	III	International Relations	12	100
	IV	Public Administration	12	100

M.A. Part II

TYPE	PAPER	TOPIC	CREDIT	FULL MARKS
THEORETICAL	V	Contemporary Political Theories	12	100
	VI	Local Government in India: Theory and Practice	12	100
	VII	Social and Political Movements in India	12	100
	VIII	Society and Politics in South Asia	12	100

Distribution of Marks

For First Half of Each Paper

Sl. No.	Theory : 40 marks	Question Marks
1	Answer any 04 Questions out of 08 Questions Carrying 02 marks of each	$4 \times 2 = 8$
2	Answer any 04 Questions out of 08 Questions Carrying 04 marks of each	$4 \times 4 = 16$
3	Answer any 02 Questions out of 04 Questions Carrying 08 marks of each	$2 \times 8 = 16$
Internal Assessment: 10 marks		
Total		50 Marks

For Second Half of Each Paper

Sl. No.	Theory : 40 marks	Question Marks
1	Answer any 04 Questions out of 08 Questions Carrying 02 marks of each	$4 \times 2 = 8$
2	Answer any 04 Questions out of 08 Questions Carrying 04 marks of each	$4 \times 4 = 16$
3	Answer any 02 Questions out of 04 Questions Carrying 08 marks of each	$2 \times 8 = 16$
Internal Assessment: 10 marks		
Total		50 Marks

Syllabus of M.A. Course in Political Science

PART – I

Paper - I

Contemporary Political Thought: Indian and Western

FIRST HALF

(Indian Political Thought)

Module: 1

Nationalist Thought: Bankimchandra, Aurobindo, Savarkar – Tageor's critique of nationalism.

Module: 2

Socialist Thought: Nehru: Concept of Socialism and Development; Subhas Bose: Concept of Samyabad and Planning.

Module: 3

Caste and Social Reforms: Jyotiba Phule – *Satya Shodhak Samaj, Gulamgiri*; B.R. Ambedkar – Views on untouchability, Social Justice.

Module: 4

Gandhian Thought: Concepts of *Ahimsa* and *Satyagraha*, critique of modern civilization and theory of Trusteeship.

Module: 5

Muslim Political Thought: Contributions of Sayed Ahmed Khan, Iqbal, Jinnah and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

SECOND HALF

(Western Political Thought)

Module: 6

Enlightenment: Meaning and Significance; Responses to Enlightenment: Rousseau and Kant.

Module: 7

Hegel: Dialectical relationship between Family, Civil Society and the State.

Module: 8

Nietzsche: An overview of his Political Philosophy.

Module: 9

Western Marxism: Influence of Frankfurt School and Habermas.

Module: 10

Post – modernism: Background and main arguments; Contributions of Lyotard and Foucault.

Paper – II
Politics in India

FIRST HALF
(Concepts and Processes)

Module: 1

Approaches to the study of the Indian State: Liberal, Marxist, Subaltern.

Module: 2

The problem of governance in India – the genealogy of the governability discourse.

Module: 3

Party system in India: From one party dominance to multi-party rule – the politics of coalition.

Module: 4

Political economy of development in India: Politics of Planning; Political implication of economic liberalization.

Module: 5

Politics of environment: The concept of alternative development; Environment and the state in India.

SECOND HALF
(Issues and Challenges)

Module: 6

Religion in Indian Politics: Communalism and Secularism.

Module: 7

Caste and Politics in India: Problems of minorities; the issue of reservation.

Module: 8

Tribal politics in India: Defining ‘tribe’; Issue of livelihood, displacement and identity.

Module: 9

Politics of Regionalism: Conceptual issues, typologies, different case studies.

Module: 10

State Politics in West Bengal: Key issues; Role of NGOs.

Paper – III
International Relations

FIRST HALF
(Theories and Issues)

Module: 1

Theories and Approaches: Liberal Idealism to Neo-liberalism; Realism to Neo-Realism; International Political Economy.

Module: 2

Post-modernism and Constructivism.

Module: 3

Disarmament and World Peace since World War II; Problems of Nuclear Disarmament.

Module: 4

Globalization and its impact on International Relations.

Module: 5

Emerging Issues in World Politics – Human Rights; Environment; Terrorism.

SECOND HALF
(Institutions and Processes)

Module: 6

Multinational/Transnational Actors in World Politics: Role of the IMF; World Bank and WTO.

Module: 7

Regional Organizations: SAARC; ASEAN and the EU.

Module: 8

BRICS and SCO in the New World Order.

Module: 9

Foreign Policy of the major powers: the USA, Russia and China.

Module: 10

Indian Foreign Policy with special reference to her neighbours.

Paper – IV
Public Administration

FIRST HALF
(Growth of the Discipline)

Module: 1

Public Administration – Evolution of the Discipline.

Module: 2

Scientific Management Theories – Taylor and Fayol.

Module: 3

Bureaucratic Theory: Weber and his critics.

Module: 4

Organizational & Decision – Making Theories – Chester Bernard & Herbert Simon.

Module: 5

Human dimensions in Public Administration – Mayo and Maslow.

SECOND HALF
(New Development and Challenges)

Module: 6

Development Administration: Riggs

Module: 7

New Public Management and Managerialism

Module: 8

Public Administration and the emerging issue of Governance

Module: 9

Citizens and Administration: Accountability and Transparency.

Module: 10

Politics-Administration relations (with special reference to India)

Syllabus of M.A. Course in Political Science

PART – II

Paper – V Contemporary Political Theories

FIRST HALF (Liberal Political Theory)

Module: 1

Classical Liberalism: Background of its emergence; Basic tenets.

Module: 2

Literal democracy and the emergence of Welfare State.

Module: 3

Post liberal theories of democracy: Contributions of Robert Dahl and C.B. Macpherson.

Module: 4

Contemporary liberal and neo-liberal theories: Contributions of John Rawls and Robert Nozick.

Module: 5

Liberal – Communitarian debate; Liberalism and Marxism: the major issues.

SECOND HALF (Critical Political Theory)

Module: 6

Karl Marx: Historical and philosophical background; concepts of i) Ideology, ii) Alienation and iii) Praxis.

Module: 7

Marxism after Marx: Contributions of Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin.

Module: 8

Antonio Gramsci's concepts of Hegemony, role of intellectuals and party; Althusser's concept of 'Epistemological break' in Marx's writings.

Module: 9

Edward Said: Concept and Critique of Orientalism.

Module: 10

Emerging issues in Contemporary Political Theory: i) Ecologism ii) Multi-Culturalism and iii) Feminism – Origin and Types.

Paper – VI
Local Government in India: Theory and Practice

FIRST HALF
(Theories & Issues)

Module: 1

Local Government and Local Politics – An Overview.

Module: 2

Decentralization: Advantages and Disadvantages.
Debate between Centralization and Decentralization.

Module: 3

Local Government and People's Participation.

Module: 4

Local Government and Democracy: The Localist view, Dual State Thesis, The Local State Thesis.

Module: 5

Typologies of Local Government – The basic patterns.

SECOND HALF
(Institutions and Practices)

Module: 6

Rural Local Government in India – Origin and Development: The 73rd Constitutional Amendment- a critical review; Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) in West Bengal – functions and role.

Module: 7

Pattern of fiscal decentralization in India – The State Finance Commission and Fiscal Devolution in West Bengal – powers of taxation and other sources of income of PRIs.

Module: 8

Evolution of urban local government in India (with special reference to West Bengal)- the 'Mayor-in-Council' and 'Chairman-in-Council' patterns of urban government in West Bengal.

Module: 9

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act and urban government in India – a critical appraisal.

Module: 10

Local government in the era of globalization – issues and challenges.

Paper - VII
Social and Political Movements in India

FIRST HALF
(Conceptual Framework)

Module: 1

Social and Political Movements: Conceptual Issues; Ideology, Organization and Leadership; Distinctive features of the social and political Movements in Post-Colonial India; Different Phases.

Module: 2

Typology of Social and Political Movements.

Module: 3

‘New’ Social Movements in Contemporary India: Socio-Political Background of its emergence – ‘Old’ or ‘Classical’ and ‘new’ movements.

Module: 4

Post-Gandhi Gandhian Movements in India: Ideas and Different streams.

Module: 5

Left and Left Extremist Movement in India: Ideology and Strategy: Concepts of Parliamentary Communion.

SECOND HALF
(Issues and Case Studies)

Module: 6

Peasant and Working Class Movements in India: Basic Features; Different Phases; Impact of Globalization; Emerging ideas of ‘Farmers’ and ‘Political Trade Unionism’.

Module: 7

Human Rights Movements in India: Civil Liberties; Involvement of NGOs.

Module: 8

Movement of the weaker sections in India: Dalit, Tribal, Women and Linguistic Minority.

Module: 9

Environmental Movement in India: Chipko Movement; Narmada Bachao Andolon; Silent Valley Movement; Anti POSCO Movement.

Module: 10

Civil Society, Academia and Social Movements: Student Movements in Contemporary India.

Paper – VIII
Society and Politics in South Asia

FIRST HALF
(South Asia as a Region)

Module: 1

Defining South Asia as a Region; Its Geo-strategic significance.

Module: 2

The Process of Nation building and the emergence of democracy in South Asia.

Module: 3

Political Systems of the South Asian Countries: A Brief Introduction.

Module: 4

Civil Society in South Asia: An Overview.

Module: 5

South Asia in World Politics.

SECOND HALF
(Major Issues)

Module: 6

Islamic extremism in South Asia.

Module: 7

Security and Nuclear issues in South Asia.

Module: 8

Environmental issues – South Asia.

Module: 9

Refugees in South Scenario.

Module: 10

Cooperation and Conflicts among the South Asian States.