



NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY AND JUDICIAL ACADEMY, ASSAM

PROGRAMME: B.A., LL.B. (HONS.)FYIC

DETAILS OF COURSE OFFERED

EVEN SEMESTER (II) – ACADEMIC YEAR:

SL NO.	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	L	T	P	CR	CH
1	202 PSC MJ II	WESTERN POLITICAL THEORY	4 PER WEEK		1 PER WEEK	4	

**A. CODE AND TITLE OF THE COURSE: 202 PSC MJ II, WESTERN
POLITICAL THEORY**

B. COURSE CREDIT: 4 (TOTAL MARKS 200)

C. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION: ENGLISH

D. COURSE COMPILED BY: DR MAYENGBAM NANDAKISHWOR SINGH

E. COURSE INSTRUCTOR: DR MAYENGBAM NANDAKISHWOR SINGH

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A proper study of Political Science is absolutely indispensable for the legal studies. Laws in any society are largely shaped by the prevailing political Ideas and systems. Political ideas of several political philosophers inevitably enrich the nature and content of the laws. They also advance the interpretation of legal nuances from time to time. Western political theory essentially deals with the views, ideas and speculations of different political thinkers on numerous political aspects. This also essentially deals with how political thinkers have been providing different frameworks and propositions to address the problems occurring in society. The present course has been incorporated to acquaint students with the political ideas of some of the most influential western political thinkers. This vital course has been introduced in National Law and Judicial Academy, Assam to provide a proper understanding of the fundamental political ideas of the towering western thinkers to students.

2. TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

National Law University, Assam has framed its own teaching methodology to train its students in learning and understanding of political aspects and issues. The teaching methodology is not just confined to a traditional lecture method but a participatory teaching method with an aim to discuss on various current political aspects. The pedagogy followed is the combination of lectures and intense discussions in the class.

This course requires students to engage in seminars or group discussions for which topics and themes will be assigned well in advance. Assignments will be also assigned to the students as a part of the course. The students are also encouraged to do independent research on their respective assignments. Every student is required to present their topics in the classroom and clear their doubts through discussion.

3. COURSE OUTCOMES

- Students are expected to understand the nuances of each module on the completion of the course
- They shall be in a position to understand western political theory. Proper understanding of western political philosophy would broaden students' political and legal outlooks
- As the course would help students gather a clear understanding of the western political theories, they would be in the better position to interpret various subtleties of law
- Besides, this course will enable students to interpret political phenomena with alternative perspectives.

4. COURSE EVALUATION METHOD:

The course will be evaluated for 200 marks. The Evaluation process will be as follows:

Internal Assessment: 70% (140 marks)

Semester End Examination: 30% (60 marks)

Sl. No.	Internal Assessment	
1.	Assignments (written or in presentation mode) (2 Assignments of 20 marks each)	40 marks
2.	Seminar/Group Discussion (topics will be announced by concerned course teacher)	20 marks
3.	Class Tests (twice in a semester)	2x 35 = 70 marks
4.	Attendance in class	10 marks
5	Semester End Examination	60 marks

5. DETAILED STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE (SPECIFYING COURSE MODULES AND SUB-MODULES)

MODULE I: Greek Political Theory

Plato: Ideal State, Idea of Justice, Theory of Communism, Theory of Education, Philosopher Ruler, Allegory of Cave, Criticisms, Contributions to Political Theory

Aristotle: Theory of State, Theory of Justice, Theory of Slavery, Citizenship, Government, Revolution, Law, Basic Differences Between Plato and Aristotle, Contributions to Political Thought

MODULE II: European Political Theory

Niccolo Machiavelli: Machiavelli and Renaissance, Ideas on Human Nature, Ideas on State, Advices to The Prince, Politics and Ethics, Politics and Religion, Criticisms, Significance of The Political Ideas of Machiavelli

Jeremy Bentham: On Utility, The State, Rights, Sovereignty, Theory of Sanctions, Inconsistencies in Bentham's Thought

John Stuart Mill: On Utilitarianism, Liberty, Rights, Women, Sphere of The State Action, Contributions of J. S. Mill to Political Theory

MODULE III: Socialist Political Theory

Karl Marx: Concept of Dialectical Materialism, Concept of Historical Materialism, Idea of Class Struggle, Alienation, Theory of Exploitation, On Capitalism, Surplus Value, Revolution, Private Property, Dictatorship of The Proletariat, State, Communism, Criticisms of Marx's Ideas, Importance of Karl Marx's Ideas

Vladimir Ilyitch Lenin: State, Capitalism, Dictatorship of Proletariat, Concept of Party System, Theory of Imperialism, Revolution, Comparative Study Between Marx and Lenin, Importance of Lenin's Ideas

MODULE IV: Contemporary Political Theory

John Rawls: Criticism of Utilitarianism, Theory of Justice, Two Principles, Importance of Rawls's Theory of Justice, Criticism of Rawls's Theory of Justice

Robert Nozick: Distributive Justice, Theory of Justice, The Minimal State, Criticisms of Nozick's Theory of Justice, Importance of Nozick's Theory of Justice, Comparison Between John Rawls and Robert Nozick on Justice

6. PRESCRIBED READINGS:

Aristotle. *The Politics*. England: Penguin Books, 1992.

Asirvatham, Eddy. *Political Theory*. Lucknow: Upper India Publishing, 1968.

Barker, Ernest. *Greek Political Thought*. New Delhi: Cosmo Publications, 2008.

Barker, Ernest. *The Political Thought of Plato and Aristotle*. Memphis: General Books, 2012.

Bhandari, D. R. *History of European Political Philosophy*. Bangalore: Bappco, 1969.

Feser, Edward. *On Nozick*. Singapore: Thomson Wadsworth, 2004.

Freeman, Samuel. *Rawls*. London: Routledge, 2007.

Gauba, O. P. *Western Political Thought*. Delhi: Macmillan Publishers India Ltd, 2013.

Kamenka, Eugene, ed. *The Portable Karl Marx*. New York: Penguin Books, 1983.

Kymlicka, Will. *Contemporary Political Philosophy*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince*. England: Penguin Books, 2011.

Mahajan, V. D. *Political Theory*. New Delhi: S. Chand & Company Ltd., 2014.

Mukherjee, Subhrata and Sushila Ramaswamy. *A History of Political Thought: Plato to Marx*. New Delhi: PHI Learning Private Limited, 2010.

Nozick, Robert. *Anarchy, State, And Utopia*. New York: Basic Books, 1974.

Plato. *The Republic*. England: Penguin Books, 2007.

- Rawls, John. *A Theory of Justice*. New Delhi: Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd, 2010.
- Sabine, George H. *A History of Political Theory*. New Delhi: Oxford Publications, 1973.
- Schneewind, J. B. *The Basic Writings of John Stuart Mill*. New York: The Modern Library, 2002.
- Singh, Sukhbir. *History of Political Thought*. Vol. 1 Meerut: Rastogi publications, 1999.
- Singh, Sukhbir. *History of Political Thought*. Vol. 2 Meerut: Rastogi publications, 1999.
- Skinner, Quentin. *Machiavelli*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Wayper, C, L. *Political Thought*. Bombay: B. I. Publications, 1974.