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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part – I: 400 marks</th>
<th>Part – II: 400 marks</th>
<th>Total: 800 marks</th>
</tr>
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**M.A. Part I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>PAPER</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>FULL MARKS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEORETICAL</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Contemporary Political Thought: Indian and Western</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Politics in India</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td></td>
<td>III</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
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<td>IV</td>
<td>Public Administration</td>
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**M.A. Part II**

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>THEORETICAL</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>Contemporary Political Theories</td>
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<td>VI</td>
<td>Local Government in India: Theory and Practice</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>VII</td>
<td>Social and Political Movements in India</td>
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<td>VIII</td>
<td>Society and Politics in South Asia</td>
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### Distribution of Marks

**For First Half of Each Paper**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Theory: 40 marks</th>
<th>Question Marks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Answer any 04 Questions out of 08 Questions Carrying 02 marks of each</td>
<td>4x2 = 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Answer any 04 Questions out of 08 Questions Carrying 04 marks of each</td>
<td>4x4 = 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Answer any 02 Questions out of 04 Questions Carrying 08 marks of each</td>
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**Internal Assessment: 10 marks**

**Total**

50 Marks

### For Second Half of Each Paper

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**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

Module: 2
Socialist Thought: Nehru: Concept of Socialism and Development; Subhas Bose: Concept of Samyaband and Planning.

Module: 3

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

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

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
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**

**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

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 Banchao 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.