

M. Phil/ Ph. D (Course Work) Syllabus

Department of Political Science

Raiganj University

Uttar Dinajpur

West Bengal - 733134

The M.Phil programme of the Department of Political Science is divided into four semesters in which the students shall be required to study four courses : two compulsory courses of 100 marks each and two optional courses. Besides, the students shall have to fulfil the obligation of presenting seminars/term papers and of submitting dissertation.

Duration of the Programme : Two years

Semester-wise Distribution of Marks:

First Semester	:	Two compulsory courses (100 x 2)	=	200 marks
Second Semester	:	Two optional courses (100 x 2)	=	200 marks
Third Semester	:	Seminar/Review/Term paper	=	200 marks
Fourth Semester	:	Dissertation (150 marks) & Viva (50)	=	<u>200 marks</u>
				800 marks

Courses Offered by the Department:

A. Compulsory Courses (1st Semester)

Course No. 01: Foundations of Social Research: Concepts, Theories and Issues.

Course No. 02: Quantitative Research, Field-survey and Computer Applications.

B. Optional Courses (2nd Semester) :

Course No. 03: Advance Political Theory

Course No. 04: Modern Ideologies.

Course No. 05: Social Movements and Political Process in India

Course No. 06: The Public Sphere & The State in India.

Course No. 07: Ethno-Regional Identity and Politics: The Indian Experience.

Course No. 08: Politics of Working Class & Peasants Movements in India.

Course No. 09: Protest, Change & Integration in India.

Course No. 10: Judicial Process in Contemporary India.

Course No. 11: Public Policy & Political Process in India.

Course No. 12: District Administration.

Course No. 13: Decentralized Governance, Development & Empowerment:

Theory and Practice with Reference to India

- Course No. 14: Development & Communication.
- Course No. 15: Administrative Reforms.
- Course No. 16: Comparative Political Economy: South Asia.
- Course No. 17: International Political Economy.
- Course No. 18: Regional Parties in Indian Democracy.
- Course No. 19: Women and Politics in India.
- Course No. 20: Aspects of Politics in a Sub-state Region; North Bengal.

Compulsory Courses

Course No. 01

**FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH:
CONCEPTS, THEORIES AND ISSUES**

1. Core areas of Social Research: Basic elements – Evolution of methods in social research – the nature and central theme of social research: theoretical and philosophical dimensions.
2. Theory Building in Social Research: Issues and problems – Theory building on a Grand scale – Problems of objectivity and Ethical Neutrality – Limitations and possibilities of Theory building – concepts, their scope and relevance.
3. Social Research and Theory building: Different dimensions and forms- Alternative perspectives: Philosophical, Normative, Rationalism, Hermeneutics, Constructivism and Deconstructivism, Critical Realism, Participatory research – Developmentalism and comparative method interdisciplinarity.
4. Social Reality and Social Theorizing: Areas of conflict – Methodological Individualism and limits of Methodology.
5. Nature of Scientific Inquiry & Problems of Social Sciences: Nature of Scientific Knowledge: Positivism, Logical Positivism (Vienna Circle and Wittgenstein) and Critical Rationalism (Popper, Kuhn, Lakatos, Feysraband).
6. Critical Issues: Objectivity in Social Research (Weber, Winch, Gadamer) – structure agency debate – Post structuralism: Archaeology of Foucault, Meta narrative and Post modernity (Lyotard), Anti foundationalism (Rorty), Anti-essentialism and Difference (Derrida), Universalism and Modernity (Habermas).
7. Alternative view: Universal method and Historical Materialism – Scientific knowledge vs Ideology – Marxist political economy, Base superstructure and class analysis.
8. Qualitative Research : Methods and Techniques (Participant Observation, Content Analysis, Discourse analysis, Deconstruction and others)
9. Methodological Individualism and Limits of Methodology.

QUANTITATIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH AND COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

1st Half

50 marks

1. Quantitative Social Research – Rationale, Concepts and Issues, Statistical Analysis –

Descriptive and Inferential

2. Data Processing – Data Reductions – Frequency Distribution, Histogram, Polygon, Ogive,

Pie Chart.

3. Data Analysis – Univariate: Mean, Median, Mode, Standard Deviation – Bi-variate:

correlation, regression-Multivariate: correlation, regression ANOVA – One way & two

ways – Factor Analysis – Time series Analysis (preliminary)

1. Hypothesis Testing – t test, Z test, X test,

2. Report Writing

3. Computer Application – Basic Ideas

Application of SPSS

2nd Half

Group – A Book Review/Article Review

Group – B

Field Survey and Report Writing.

(25 marks)

(25 marks)

Course No. 03

ADVANCED POLITICAL THEORY

1. Re-structuring of Political Theory-Modernity and the Break – down of Classical

Consensus: Liberalism, Marxism, and Feminism and Political Theory – Methodological

debates since the 70s – The issues of Universalism vs Relativism.

2. Political theory and issues of post – Modernity – Challenges to political Theory –

Habermas and defence of Enlightenment Tradition – Richard Rorty and the issue of

Contingence.

3. Crisis of Liberal Political Theory – the Right Debates – Liberal Communitarian

controversy – Contributions of Rawls, Nozick, Dworkin, Sandel and Walzer.

4. Democratic Theory: Traditional and Modern – the issues of Globalization and mass

participation in Political: Challenges to Democratic Institutionalisation – Contemporary

models of Democracy and the politics of Democratic Theory.

Course No. 04

MODERN IDEOLOGIES (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO POLITICAL

THEORISATIONS OF INDIAN SOCIETY)

1. Updating Classical Liberalism: Social Liberalism and neo – Liberalism – Liberal Models of

Democracy and Development in India.

QUANTITATIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH AND COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

1st Half

50 marks

1. Quantitative Social Research – Rationale, Concepts and Issues, Statistical Analysis – Descriptive and Inferential
2. Data Processing – Data Reductions – Frequency Distribution, Histogram, Polygon, Ogive, Pie Chart.
3. Data Analysis – Univariate: Mean, Median, Mode, Standard Deviation – Bi-variate: correlation, regression-Multivariate: correlation, regression ANOVA – One way & two ways – Factor Analysis – Time series Analysis (preliminary)
1. Hypothesis Testing – t test, Z test, X test,
2. Report Writing
3. Computer Application – Basic Ideas
- Application of SPSS
- 2nd Half
- Group – A Book Review/Article Review
- Group – B
- Field Survey and Report Writing.

(25 marks)

(25 marks)

Course No. 03

ADVANCED POLITICAL THEORY

1. Re-structuring of Political Theory-Modernity and the Break – down of Classical Consensus: Liberalism, Marxism, and Feminism and Political Theory – Methodological debates since the 70s – The issues of Universalism vs Relativism.
2. Political theory and issues of post – Modernity – Challenges to political Theory – Habermas and defence of Enlightenment Tradition – Richard Rorty and the issue of Contingence.
3. Crisis of Liberal Political Theory – the Right Debates – Liberal Communitarian controversy – Contributions of Rawls, Nozick, Dworkin, Sandel and Walzer.
4. Democratic Theory: Traditional and Modern – the issues of Globalization and mass participation in Political: Challenges to Democratic Institutionalisation – Contemporary models of Democracy and the politics of Democratic Theory.

Course No. 04

MODERN IDEOLOGIES (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO POLITICAL THEORISATIONS OF INDIAN SOCIETY)

1. Updating Classical Liberalism: Social Liberalism and neo – Liberalism – Liberal Models of Democracy and Development in India.

ETHNO-REGIONAL IDENTITY AND POLITICS: THE INDIAN EXPERIENCE

Course No. 07

1. Conceptualising Ethno-regional identity and Movements—the concepts of nationality, ethnicity and regionalism – Dimensions of cultural – territorial mobilization.
2. Foreign Aid, Democracy, Good governance and the construction of civil society in India.
3. Governance Models and Neo – Liberal Ideology – Public Sphere and the state in dialogue: New Social Movements in India, Identity based movements and environmental movements – Women's Empowerment, the State and public sphere.
4. Public Sphere in Partnership with the State: Participatory management Strategies in rural and urban India, Public – Private Partnerships, Economic reforms and Consumer rights.
5. Nature of evolving public sphere in India: Attempted depoliticisation, secularization and bureaucratization of public sphere vs. Politics of public sphere.

THE PUBLIC SPHERE AND THE STATE IN INDIA

Course No. 06

1. Ideas of Civil Society: Civil and Political Society in post – colonial democracy – Indian case.
2. Social Movements – Socio – culture and Political Movements – Forms of Typology – Organization – Ideology – Leadership – Contemporary Theories and Social Movements in India.
3. Impacts of Social Movements in India: Society and Social Change – Economy and Economic Development – Policy and Political Development – Federal Governance – National Unity and Integration – Legitimacy and Legitimacy / Crises.
4. Social Movements and Governance in India: Caste – Class – Specific Study of Peasant Movements, Dalit Movements, Students Movements – Problem of Delineation.
6. Politics of Social Movements – Indian Experience.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN INDIA

Course No. 05

1. Social Movements: Nature – Theories of Social Movements.
2. Transformation in India. Neo – Left and Neo – Marxism – Marxist and anti – Marxist Theories of Social – Political Transformation.
3. Contemporary Conservatism and anti – Colonial Nationalism – Gandhian Ideas on Socio – Religious Fundamentalism and Environmentalism – New Themes in Contemporary Indian Political Theories.
5. New Radicalism: Feminism and Environmentalism – The Ideology of Hindu Nationalism.

2. Alternative theories of ethnicity and regional mobilization – Culture and politics; resource-competition; internal colonialism; nationalist exclusion post – modern and realist interpretations.
3. Growth of ethnic – regional consciousness in modern India – Nationalism and cultural – regional identity – Ethnic – regional mobilizations during national movement.
4. Ethnic – Regional movements in post – independence period-Language, Cultural – politics – Issue of economic deprivation – Political centralization and ethnic – regional demands – State – level and sub-state level movements.
5. The special case of north – Ethnic demands and re-organization of north east India – The Assam movement – Ethnic mobilizations in Karbi Anglong, Tripura, Manipur.
6. Ethnic-territorial demands in West Bengal: The Gorkhaland movements-separate state demands in parts of North Bengal – The Jharkhand movement in West Bengal.
7. Ethnic – Regional demands and the role of state – state policies and ethno-regional mobilization: the experiences of British India and post-independence period.
8. Managing Ethnicity: Alternative policies for containing ethnic – regional demands – alternative theories – ethnicity, regionalism and the question of national integration.

Course No. 08

POLITICS OF WORKING CLASS AND PEASANT MOVEMENTS IN INDIA

- A. Working Class Movements in India
 1. Competing Theories of Trade Unions: Syndicalism, Marxism, Pluralism, Responsible Union theory.
 2. Early industrialization, Emergence, Size, Nature and Significance of the Working Class in Colonial India.
 3. Working Class Movements in Pre-Independence Period 1850s–1918, 1918 till 1947.
 4. Working Class Movements Since Independence:
 - (a) Expansion of the Working Class since Independence, Nature of the Working Class, Working Class and the State, Working Class and Economic Reforms.
 - (b) The Trade Union Scene: Fragmentation in Unions: AITUC, INTUC, CITU, BMS – Origins, Ideology, Affiliation, Mobilisation, Support.
 - (c) Historic Strikes: The Railway Strike of 1947, The Bombay Textile Workers Strike of 1982, Strikes in the Jute Mills and Tea Plantations of West Bengal.
 - (d) Challenges to Trade Unionism in India.
 5. Working Class Movements in India
- B. Peasant Movements in India
 1. Revolutionary Potentiality of the Peasants: Marx, Engels, Lenin, Mao, Middle Peasant Thesis.
 2. Colonial India: The Condition of the Indian Peasants, The Congress, Communists and Mobilisation of the Indian Peasantry.
 3. Peasants in Revolt: Tebhaga and the Telengana Movement.

JUDICIAL PROCESS IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA: ISSUES AND DIRECTIONS

Course No. 10

1. Indian Politics – Social Foundations, Economic Imperatives and Political Issues.
2. Power – political, Economic and Social Nature of class formation, Class cohesion and class antagonism – The post independent scenario.
3. Basic thrusts of the Political System – Democracy, Egalitarianism, Socialism and Secularism – their changing Dimensions.
4. Nature of the Governing Process – Federalism and the problems of Good Governance – Emerging Trend in coalition Politics.
5. Nature and Extent of New Political configuration – Areas of Conflict and Cooperation – Demand for autonomy – The Need to maintain the balance among conflicting claims and counter – claims.
6. Protests – The Nature and Impact of the governing process – Problems of Social Governance.
7. Protest Movements and the Issues of National Integration – Problems of Participatory Legitimacy and change.
8. Protest Movements and the Responses of the State in India – An Evaluative Perspective.

1. Meaning and nature of Judicial Process in a comparative perspective – Judicial Process and National Political Process – Judicial Process in India: Constitutional Framework, Governmental Process, Legal Culture, Socio-economic Realities, Political Dynamics and Developmental Imperatives.

PROTEST, CHANGE AND INTEGRATION IN INDIA

Course No. 09

4. Peasants and Movements in Post Colonial India:
 - a) Agrarian / Rural Structure, Agrarian Policies – land Reforms, New Agrarian Strategy and Economic Reforms / Reforms / Liberalisation of the Economy.
 - b) Movements of the Rural Rich: Farmers Movement in Contemporary India: BKU, Shetkari Sangathan, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Vyvasayigal Sangam Movement.
 - c) Movements of the Rural poor: The Naxalbari Peasant Uprising, The Rural Poor and the Indian Left.
 - d) The Peasantry and Contemporary Political Mobilisation.
 - e) NGOs and the Peasants.
5. Problem Confronting Peasant Organisations in India: Politicization, Hindutva, Economic Reforms.
6. Peasant Movements and the Response of the India State.

1. District Administration: Totality of Administration 'at District level, Continuity and Change in pre-independence era at District level Administration'.
2. District Administration and Politics: Changing role of District Magistrate-Cornwallis Model, Munro Model and Coordinator's role.
3. Territorial Jurisdiction of a District: The Theory of Optimum District, Theory of Local Finality, Development Democracy, Decentralization and District Level Administration.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Course No. 12

1. Public Policy – Nature, Definition, Instruments, Policy and Rules.
2. Public policy making in India – Scope, Factors, Problems, Issues and Agencies.
3. Recent policies of the central and State Governments.
4. Public Policy and Energy Management – Dimensions.
5. Public Policy and Transport Management – Issue, Problems.
6. Public Policy formulation, Implementation and Evaluation.
7. Specific Public Policies:
 - a) Health Policy.
 - b) Housing Policy.
 - c) Education Policy.
 - d) Poverty – Alleviation Policy.
 - e) Telecom Policy.

PUBLIC POLICY & POLITICAL PROCESS IN INDIA

Course No. 11

1. Judicial Review and Judicial Decision making in India: Directions Tendencies at the macro level since 1950 – Judicial Policy making – American Concepts of Judicial Self Restraint, Judicial Activism and New Directions and Tendencies – The concept of Committed judiciary – Impact of Supreme Court Decisions on the broader socio – Political setup of the country.
2. Public policy and the Judicial Process in India – Court – Parliament Relationship since 1950: New issue and Recent controversies – Judicial Process in advancing and safeguarding the interests of the poor, the disadvantaged, the economically backward classes, the minorities and the goal of Social Justice.
3. Public Interest Litigation in India: Origin, Development and Recent Trends – Legal Aid for the Poor – Lok Adalats.
4. Impact of and Compliance with Judicial Decisions – Courts, Judges and Law vis-a-vis Social Change – the outlook and the prospect for the future role of the judiciary in India.

1. Study of Development – The changing and contending perspectives – changing concepts and strategies of development.
2. Communication for development – Critique of the Dominant Paradigm's Communication Approach – Communication Approach of the Dominant Paradigm; Theories and Models – Critique of the Dominant Paradigm's the Development communication approach Under Alternative Development Paradigm: Communication in self Development.
3. Action and communication – The Role of mass media and social change. The role of traditional media and other indigenous channels of communication: Indian Experience.
4. Approach in Communication and Communication – Concept of Participation – Participatory Approach in Communication – Participatory

DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION: THE INDIAN EXPERIENCE

Course No. 14

1. Governance, Decentralization, Development and Empowerment: Issues and Problems in conceptualization – Major Perspectives – Liberal, New – Liberal and Marxist – Paradigmatic Crises.
2. Governance: From Government to Governance – Theoretical Issues – New right Approach – Social Variation.
3. Decentralization: Theoretical Issues – Imperatives of Globalization – Experiments in the Developing Countries.
4. Development: Major Theories – Contradiction in the Liberal Marxist Traditions – Development Experience in the Developing Countries.
5. Empowerment: conceptual and Theoretical Issues – Debate on Criteria – Empowerment in the Developing Countries.
6. Governance, Decentralization, Development and Empowerment – Theoretical Links – Participation – Major Perspectives – Non-Participation.
7. Governance, Decentralization, Development and Empowerment in India – Trends – Issues and Problems – Empowerment at Social, Economic and Political levels – Empowerment, Decentralization, Development and Empowerment in India: Problems of Theory Building.
8. Governance, Decentralization, Development and Empowerment in India: Problems

DECENTRALISED GOVERNANCE, DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT: THEORY AND PRACTICE WITH REFERENCE TO INDIA

Course No. 13

4. The Dynamics of Discord and Cooperation at District Administration, The Design of District Administration in Future.

5. Rural/development and communication - Concept of rural development - Decentralization and participation - Basic Needs Approach - Integrated Rural Development - Sustainable Development - Constraints to Rural Development - Development Research in India - Communication in Rural Development
6. Extension and communication - concept of extension education - Rural of Extension Education in Development - Communication and Extension Approach - Methods of Extension teaching - Role of Extension teaching - Role of Extension Education in Rural Development in India.

Course No. 15

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

1. Administrative Reforms: Concept, Structure and Strategy; Its Global Perspective; Its problems.
2. Emerging issues of Administrative Reforms in India since the dawn of independence; Structural Adjustment Programme vis-a-vis Administrative Reforms in Third World especially India.
3. Lessons from initiatives in U.S.A., Canada Asia and Pacific Region nations - Towards Theory building of Administrative Reforms.

Course No. 16

COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY: SOUTH ASIA

1. Legacies of Colonialism and Nationalism-Patterns of state formation, Private investment and role of state capital in South-Asia State intervention in the Global periphery-a comparative perspective.
2. State power in South Asia - Crisis of Political and Economic modernization-Prospects of Democracy and democratization.
3. Economic reforms and poverty alleviation, contrasts in Economic liberalization process in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh - Infrastructural developments and Public policy in Afghanistan, Bhutan Nepal.
4. Social sectors in South Asia - Transition and management-impact of Globalization on Labour markets-human development-education and health.
5. Economics of South Asia-Minds and foreign investments-Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Trade among SAARC countries.
6. South Asia in the Global economy-implications for World Bank policies-Globalization and its impact on South Asia-Global integration and Economic Governance.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

1. Theories of International Political Economy.
 - a) Liberal Perspective with emphasis on Public Choice Theory and Regime Theory.
 - b) Neo-Realist Theory.
 - c) Structuralist Theory.
 - d) Marxist Perspective.
 - e) Neo-Marxist Perspective
2. Issues in International Political Economy.
 - a) Agrarian Relations and Transformation.
 - b) Dependency & its refinements – Internationalization of Capital
 - c) State Capitalism.
3. Strategies for the Third World.
 - a) Self-reliant Strategy.
 - b) Economic Regionalism.
 - c) Formation of Commodity Cartels.
 - d) New International Economic Order.
4. Prescriptions :
 - a) Liberal Prescriptions.
 - b) Radical Prescriptions.

REGIONAL PARTIES IN INDIAN DEMOCRACY

1. Regional Parties: Definition, Distinction with State Parties, Origin, growth and Expansion in contemporary India
2. The Akali Dal: Origins, growth and Politics in Colonial India, Akali Dal and the Demand for Punjab Subba (1947-66), Akali Dal after Formation of Punjab Subba, Electoral performance and Social Support, Akali Dal Governments: The Akali Dal and Power (1997-2002)
3. The Shiv Sena: Origins, ideology, Organizational Structure and initial Growth, Rebirth of the Shiv Sena and Mobilisation strategies since 1980s, Shiv Sena-BJP Alliance and Hindutva, Electoral Performance and Support base, Shiv Sena in Power (1995-2002).
4. The Telugu Desam Party: Emergence, Ascendance to Power, governance, Electoral Performance and Social Support, Crisis in Leadership, TDP in Power (1995-2004)
5. The Assam Gana Parishad: The Assam Movement and Birth of AGP, AGP in power (1985-1990) The AGP in Opposition, Electoral Performance, Social Base, AGP in Power (1996-2001)
6. The DMK/AIDMK in Tamil Nadu: Birth of the DMK, Growth, Split and the Birth of AIDMK, cultural Mobilisation, Electoral Performance, Political Power.