

KU2DSCPOL107: ESSENTIALS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Semester	Course Type	Course Level	Course Code		Credits	Total Hours
2	DSC	100-199	KU2DSCPOL107		4	60
Learning Approach (Hours/ Week)			Marks Distribution			Duration of ESE (Hours)
Lecture	Practical/ Internship	Tutorial	CE	ESE	Total	
4	-	-	30	70	100	2 hrs

Course Description

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental concepts of Political Science, focusing on the structure, nature, and functioning of different political systems. It explores various forms of government, the dynamics of power and authority, and the theoretical and practical dimensions of democracy. The course also examines political culture and political socialisation as key processes influencing governance and citizen participation. By integrating theoretical perspectives with contemporary relevance, the course enables students to critically analyze how political systems operate and evolve within diverse social contexts.

Course Outcomes:

CO No.	Expected Outcome	Learning Domains
1	Analyze and differentiate between major governmental systems by critically examining the structural, functional, and operational characteristics of federal, unitary, parliamentary, and presidential forms of government, and evaluate their respective strengths, weaknesses, and suitability for different political, social, and cultural contexts	R
2	Critically examine the concepts of power and authority, their definitions, types, and manifestations in political systems	U
3	Evaluate democratic principles and practices, including direct, indirect, participatory, and deliberative democracy models	E
4	Understand and assess political culture and political socialization processes, including their agents and impact on society	An

- **Remember (R), Understand (U), Apply (A), Analyse (An), Evaluate (E), Create (C)*

	PSO 1	PSO 2	PSO 3	PSO 4	PSO 5	PSO 6	PSO 7
CO 1	✓						
CO 2		✓					
CO 3			✓				
CO 4					✓		

Course Modules

Module	Topics
I	Forms of Government 1. Federal form of government 2. Unitary form of government 3. Parliamentary form of government 4. Presidential form of government
II	Power Dynamics 1. Power meaning and definitions 2. Types of Power 3. Authority meaning and definitions 4. Types of Authority
III	Concept of Democracy 1. Meaning of Democracy 2. Direct & Indirect Democracy 3. Participatory & Deliberative 4. Conditions for the Success of democracy
IV	Political Culture and Political Socialisation 1. Political Culture- meaning and definitions 2. Types of Political Culture 3. Political socialisation- meaning and definitions 4. Agents of political socialisation
	Teacher Specific Module

Module	Topics
	<i>Directions</i>
	<p>1. Facilitate structured debates where students critically examine and argue different perspectives on forms of government, power distribution, and democratic principles through real-world political scenarios.</p> <p>2. Analyze contemporary case studies on power dynamics, authority conflicts, or political culture. Students identify key concepts, evaluate different governmental approaches, and propose solutions based on political theory.</p> <p>3. Organize guest lectures from political scientists, government officials, or policy experts to discuss current political systems, governance challenges, and the application of democratic principles in practice.</p> <p>4. Conduct simulation exercises such as mock parliaments, cabinet meetings, or political party conventions where students demonstrate understanding of governmental structures, power relations, and political processes through role play and presentations.</p>

Essential Readings

- Heywood, A. (2013). *Politics*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Kapur, A. C. (2019). *Principles of Political Science*. New Delhi: S. Chand & Company.
- Finer, H. (2006). *Theory and Practice of Modern Government*. New York: Routledge.

Additional Readings

- Lijphart, A. (2012). *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries* (2nd ed.). New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Riker, W. H. (1964). *Federalism: Origin, Operation, Significance*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.
- Linz, J. J. (1990). The perils of presidentialism. *Journal of Democracy*, 1(1), 51-69.
- Held, David. *Models of Democracy*. Polity Press, 2006.
- Pateman, Carole. *Participation and Democratic Theory*. Cambridge University Press, 1970.
- Bhargava, Rajeev and Helmut Reifeld (eds.). *Civil Society, Public Sphere and Citizenship: Dialogues and Perceptions*. Sage Publications, 2005.
- Kothari, Rajni. *Democratic Polity and Social Change in India: Crisis and Opportunities*. Allied Publishers, 1976.
- Lukes, S. (2005). *Power: A Radical View* (2nd ed.). London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Weber, M. (1978). *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology* (Edited by G. Roth & C. Wittich). Berkeley: University of California Press. [Sections on authority]
- Dahl, R. A. (1957). The concept of power. *Behavioral Science*, 2(3), 201-215.
- Bachrach, P., & Baratz, M. S. (1962). Two faces of power. *American Political Science Review*, 56(4), 947-952.
- Almond, G. A., & Verba, S. (1963). *The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [Foundational classic]

Inglehart, R., & Welzel, C. (2005). *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Sapiro, V. (2004). Not your parents' political socialization: Introduction for a new generation. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 7, 1-23.

Hess, R. D., & Torney, J. V. (1967). *The Development of Political Attitudes in Children*. Chicago: Aldine Publishing Company.

Heywood, A. (2015). *Political Theory: An Introduction*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Roskin, M. G., Cord, R. L., Medeiros, J. A., & Jones, W. S. (2017). *Political Science: An Introduction* (14th ed.). New York: Pearson.

Assessment Rubrics:

Evaluation Type		Marks
End Semester Evaluation		70
Continuous Evaluation		30
a)	Test Paper- 1	10
b)	Test Paper-2/Quiz	10
c)	Assignment/Seminar/Book/Article Review/Field Report/Viva Voce/ Group Discussion (Any of the two)	10
Total		100