

SEMESTER - IV

POL - 250

CLASSICAL TRADITIONS IN WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Credit - 4

Course Objectives:

To introduce classical traditions in political theory to understand how the great thinkers explained and analyzed political events and problems and the solutions they advocated. The texts are to be interpreted in their historical and philosophical perspectives to understand the universality of the enterprise of political theorizing.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to understand and analyse the text and context of the political theories and their relevance in our contemporary society.

- Unit I:** Plato: Justice, Communism.
Aristotle: State, Slavery.
Machiavelli: Religion and Ethics, Statecraft.
- Unit II:** Thomas Hobbes: Nature of State, Political Obligation.
John Locke: Property, Limited Government, Revolution.
Jean Jacques Rousseau: Origin of Inequality, General Will.
- Unit III:** Edmund Burke: Tradition.
Jeremy Bentham: Idea of Utility.
J.S. Mill: Liberty, Subjection of Women.
- Unit IV:** T.H. Green: Positive Liberty and State.
Georg W.F. Hegel: State, Civil Society.
John Rawls: Justice.

Suggested Readings:

- Barker, E., *The Political Thought of Plato and Aristotle*, New York, Dover Publications, 1959.
- , *Greek Political Theory: Plato and His Predecessors*, New Delhi, B.I. Publications, 1964.
- , *The Politics of Aristotle, translated with introduction, notes and appendix*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Berki, R.N., *The History of Political Thought: A Short Introduction*, London, Dent, 1977.
- Bronowski, J and B. Mazlish, *Western Intellectual Tradition*, Harmondsworth, Penguins, 1960.
- Butler, E. and Stephen Davis, *Classical Liberalism: A Primer*, London, Institute of Economic Affairs, 2015
- Coleman, J., *A History of Political Thought: From Ancient Greece to Early Christianity*, London, Blackwell, 2000.

Hampsher-Monk, I.W., *Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Marx*, Oxford, Basil, Blackwell, 1992.

Hobhouse, L.T. *Liberalism*, Oxford University Press, 1964.

Jha, S., *Western Political Thought: From Plato to Marx*. New Delhi, Pearson, 2010.

Klosko, G., *The Development of Plato's Thought*, London, Methuen, 1986.

Kukathas, C and G. Gaus (eds), *Handbook of Political Theory*, London, Sage, 2004.

Macpherson, C.B., *The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism: Hobbes to Locke*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1973.

-----, *Democratic Theory: Essays in Retrieval*, Oxford University Press, 1973.

Mukherjee, S and S. Ramaswamy, *A History of Political Thought: Plato to Marx*, New Delhi, Prentice Hall, 1999.

Mulgan, R., G., *Aristotle's Political Theory: An Introduction for Students of Political Theory*, Oxford, The Clarendon Press, 1977.

Nelson, B., *Western Political Thought*, New York: Pearson Longman, 2008.

Plamentaz, J., *Man and Society*, 2 Vols., London, Longman, 1963.

Singh, S., *Western Political Thought*, Vol I and Vol. II, Meerut, Rastogi Publications, 2021.

Skinner, Q., *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought*, 2 volumes, Cambridge, Cambridge, University Press, 1990.

Srikanth, H. *From Classical Liberalism to Neo-Liberalism*, Amazon, 2023.

Thorson, T. L., *Plato: Totalitarian or Democrat*, Englewood Cliffs NJ, Prentice Hall, 1963.

Warburton, N., J. Pike and D. Matravers, *Reading Political Philosophy: Machiavelli to Mill*, London, Routledge in association with Open University, 2000.