



Mangalore University

Department of Political Science

PSH 551: CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY

Course objectives:

1. To introduce students to the divergent traditions of political philosophy
2. To equip students to engage with nuanced debate in contemporary political philosophy
3. To enable students to comprehend the different arguments about organising state, society and politics
4. To enable students to evolve a comparative perspectives on ideas and ideologies

Course Outcomes: *The course will enable students to –*

1. *Have a grasp of the contemporary discourses in political theory*
2. *Handle complex and abstract arguments in political theory*
3. *Develop a conceptual framework in the understanding of the ideological processes in the contemporary world*
4. *An ability to formulate and construct logical arguments about contemporary political phenomenon and an ability to evaluate these through empirical and theoretical methods.*

Block I: Approaching Political Theory

- Unit 1 Positivism
- Unit 2 Structuralism
- Unit 3 Liberalism
- Unit 4 Libertarianism

Block II: Society and Politics

- Unit 5 Marxism and Post-Marxism
- Unit 6 Postmodernism - Post-Structuralism and Deconstruction
- Unit 7 Nationalism
- Unit 8 Green Political Theory

Block III: Identity and difference

- Unit 9 **Feminism**
- Unit 10 Post-Colonialism
- Unit 11 Multiculturalism
- Unit 12 Communitarianism

Block IV: Issues in Debate

- Unit 13 Autonomy, Contract and consent
- Unit 14 Neo-liberalism
- Unit 15 **Rights, Liberty and Justice**
- Unit 16 **Toleration, Resistance, Revolution**

Essential Readings

1. Farrelly, Colin, *Introduction to Contemporary Political Theory*, London, Sage, 2004
2. Goodin, Robert E., Pettit, Philip and Pogge, Thomas, eds., *Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*, Oxford, Blackwell, 2007
3. Gilbert, Paul, *Key issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy: Ethnicity, Culture and Nationality*, Edinburgh University Press, 2014
4. Dryzek, John S., Honig, Bonnie and Phillips, Anne, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006
5. Heywood, Andrew, *Political Theory An Introduction*, London: Macmillan, 2015
6. Kymlicka, Will, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001
7. Vinod, M.J. and Deshpande, Meena, *Contemporary Political Theory*, Delhi: PHI Learning, 2013

Suggested Readings

1. Ahmed, Imtiaz ., *Equality and Pluralism*, New Delhi: Sage, 2001
2. Barry, Norman P. Barry, *An Introduction to Modern Political Theory*, New York,, Palgrave Macmillan, 2000
3. Bellamy, Richard Paul, *Theories and Concepts of Politics*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1993
4. Christiano, Thomas and Christman, John, eds., *Contemporary Debates in Political Philosophy*, Oxford, Wiley-Blackwell, 2009
5. Brass, Paul., *Ethnic Groups and the State*, London: Goom Helm, 1995.
6. Bhikh Parekh, *Rethinking multiculturalism*, Cultural diversity and Political theory, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 2000
7. Gaus, Gerald F., *Political concepts and political theories*, Colorado: Westview Press, 2000
8. Matravers, Derek and Pike, Jon, *Debates in Contemporary Political Philosophy An anthology*, London, Routledge, 2003
9. Parekh, Bhikhu, *Colonialism, Tradition and Reform, An analysis of Gandhi's Political Discourse*, New Delhi: Sage, 1989.
10. Rawls, John, *A Theory of Justice*, Massachusetts, Revised edn., Harvard University Press, 1999
11. Rawls, John., *Political Pluralism*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1993.
12. Sandel, Michael., *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*, Cambridge: CUP, 1982.
13. Stewart, Robert, *Readings in social and political philosophy*, Oxford University Press, 1996
14. Taylor, Charles, *Multiculturalism and the Politics of Recognition*, Princeton: Princeton, University Press, 1992.