



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.