Honours Course: Discipline Specific Core III

Semester	TWO
Paper Number	HPSCR2031T
Paper Title	**Political Theory-Concepts and Debates**
No. of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
No. of periodsassigned	Th:5+1 Tutorial Pr:
Name of Faculty member(s)	
Course description/objective	This course is divided into two modules. Module I helps the student familiarize with the basic normative concepts of political theory. Each concept is related to a crucial political issue that requires analysis with the aid of our conceptual understanding. This exercise is designed to encourage critical and reflective analysis and interpretation of social practices through the relevant conceptual toolkit. Module II introduces the students to the important debates in the subject. These debates prompt us to consider that there is no settled way of understanding concepts and that in the light of new insights and Challenges, besides newer ways of perceiving and interpreting the world around us, we inaugurate new modes of political debates.
Syllabus	**Module I (40 Marks)** **1.** Importance of Freedom (10 Lectures) a) Negative Freedom: Liberty b) Positive Freedom: Freedom as Emancipation and Development *Important Issue*: Freedom of belief, expression and dissent **2.** Significance of Equality (10 lectures) a) Formal Equality: Equality of opportunity b) Political equality c) Egalitarianism: Background inequalities and differential treatment *Important Issue*: Affirmative action **3.** Indispensability of Justice (10 Lectures) a) Procedural Justice b) Distributive Justice c) Global Justice *Important Issue*: Capital punishment

	Module II (40 Marks) **4.** The Universality of Rights (15 Lectures) a) Natural Rights b) Moral and Legal Rights c) Three Generations of Rights d) Rights and Obligations *Important Issue*: Rights of the girl child **5.** Major Debates (15 Lectures) **I.** Why should we obey the state? Issues of political obligation and civil disobedience. **II.** Are human rights universal? Issue of cultural relativism. **III.** How do we accommodate diversity in plural society? Issues of multiculturalism and toleration.
Texts	
Reading/Reference Lists	**Essential Readings** Heywood,Andrew (2002) *Politics.* New York: Palgrave Foundations. Heywood,Andrew (2004*) Political Theory- An Introduction.* London: Palgrave Macmillan Roberts,P. & Sutch,P. (2005) *An Introduction to Political Thought – A Conceptual Toolkit.* New Delhi: Atlantic Sen, Amartya (2010) *The Idea of Justice.* London: Penguin Books. Additional Readings: **I. Importance of Freedom** Riley, Jonathan. (2008) 'Liberty' in Mckinnon, Catriona (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 103-119. Knowles, Dudley. (2001) *Political Philosophy*. London: Routledge, pp. 69- 132. Swift, Adam. (2001) *Political Philosophy: A Beginners Guide for Student's and Politicians.* Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 51-88. Carter, Ian. (2003) 'Liberty', in Bellamy, Richard and Mason, Andrew (eds.). *Political* *Concepts*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, pp. 4-15. Sethi, Aarti. (2008) 'Freedom of Speech and the Question of Censorship', in Bhargava, Rajeev and Acharya, Ashok. (eds.) *Political Theory: An Introduction.* New Delhi: Pearson **II. Significance of Equality** Swift, Adam. (2001) *Political Philosophy: A Beginners Guide*

for Student's and Politicians.
Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 91-132.
Casal, Paula & William, Andrew. (2008) 'Equality', in
McKinnon, Catriona. (ed.) *Issues in Political*
Theory. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 149-
165.Acharya, Ashok. (2008) 'Affirmative Action', in Bhargava,
Rajeev and Acharya, Ashok. (eds.) *Political Theory: An*
Introduction. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 298-307.

III. Indispensability of Justice
Menon, Krishna. (2008) 'Justice', in Bhargava, Rajeev and
Acharya, Ashok. (eds.) *Political*
Theory: An Introduction. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 74-
86.
Wolf, Jonathan. (2008) 'Social Justice', in McKinnon, Catriona.
(ed.) *Issues in Political Theory.*
New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 172-187.
Swift, Adam. (2001) *Political Philosophy: A Beginners Guide*
for Student's and Politicians.
Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 9-48.
Knowles, Dudley. (2001) *Political Philosophy.* London:
Routledge, pp. 177-238.
McKinnon, Catriona. (ed.) (2008) *Issues in Political Theory.*
New York: Oxford University
Press, pp. 289-305.
Bedau, Hugo Adam. (2003) 'Capital Punishment', in LaFollette,
Hugh (ed.). *The Oxford*
Handbook of Practical Ethics. New York: Oxford University
Press, pp. 705-733.

IV. The Universality of Rights
Seglow, Jonathan. (2003) 'Multiculturalism' in Bellamy,
Richard and Mason, Andrew (eds.).
Political Concepts. Manchester: Manchester University Press,
pp. 156-168.
Tulkdar, P.S. (2008) 'Rights' in Bhargava, Rajeev and Acharya,
Ashok. (eds.) *Political Theory:*
An Introduction. New Delhi: Pearson Longman, pp. 88-104.
McKinnon, Catriona. (2003) 'Rights', in Bellamy, Richard and
Mason, Andrew. (eds.) *Political*
Concepts. Manchester: Manchester University Press, pp. 16-27.
Menlowe, M.A. (1993) 'Political Obligations', in Bellamy
Richard.(ed.) *Theories and Concepts*
of Politics. New York: Manchester University Press, pp. 174-
194.
Amoah, Jewel. (2007) 'The World on Her Shoulders: The
Rights of the Girl-Child in the Context
of Culture & Identity', in *Essex Human Rights Review,* 4(2), pp.

	1-23. Working Group on the Girl Child (2007), *A Girl's Right to Live: Female Foeticide and Girl* *Infanticide*, available on http://www.crin.org/docs/Girl's infanticide CSW 2007.txt **5. Major Debates** Hyums, Keith. (2008) 'Political Authority and Obligation', in Mckinnon, Catriona. (ed.) *Issues* *in Political Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. *9-26* Martin, Rex. (2003) 'Political Obligation', in Bellamy, Richard and Mason, Andrew. (eds.) *Political Concepts*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, pp. 41-51. Campbell, Tom. (2008) 'Human Rights' in Mckinnon, Catriona. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory.* New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 194-210. Mookherjee, Monica, 'Multiculturalism', in Mckinnon, Catriona. (ed.) *Issues in Political* *Theory.* New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 218- 234. Seglow, Jonathan, 'Multiculturalism', in Bellamy, Richard and Mason, Andrew. (eds.) *Political* *Concepts*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, pp. 156-168.
Evaluation	CIA: 20 End-Sem: 80 **Short Notes**: 2 out of 3 of 5marks each (2x5=10) **Essay Type**: 3 out of 4 (3X10= 30) (40 marks per module) 40+40 (Module I + Module II= 80) (80+20 CIA=100)