

Core IX

Western Political Thought-II

Course Objectives: In continuation with the first course of Western Political Thought the structure of this course is designed in such a way as to enable the students to understand the continuity in Western Political Thought. This paper focuses on thinkers and themes of western political philosophy of the medieval and modern periods. An attempt has been made to understand thinkers and texts both from philosophical and historical perspective. The main objective is to train students in the foundational texts and thinkers of western political philosophy. Taking forward from the earlier thinkers belonging to Western Political Thought, this course highlights the modern advances in political philosophies ranging from socialism, critical theory, feminism, and so on.

Expected Learning Outcome: After going through the seminal and perennial ideas of the political thinkers, the learners would be able to understand various political ideas and constructs influencing and shaping the society. They would be informed about the key debates across different streams of political thought. The unit-wise outcomes are given below.

Unit-I: This unit analyses the contribution of Hegel and Karl Marx to ideas related to state, dialectic process, freedom, history, class, exploitation, and revolution.

Unit - II: This unit explains about the critical theory with the contributions of Gramsci and Jurgen Habermas.

Unit-III: This unit broadly discusses about the role of Marry Wollstonecraft and Carole Pateman in the development of Feminism.

Unit-IV: This unit will give an understanding related to the concepts of John Rawls and Michel Foucault

Course Content:

Unit- I: Idealism and Socialism

- a) **Hegel:** Dialectical Idealism; Concept of State; Theory of Freedom
- b) **Karl Marx:** Dialectical Materialism; Historical Materialism; Concept of Class; Capitalist exploitation, State; and Revolution

Unit-II: Critical Theories

- a) **Gramsci:** Power, Hegemony and Civil Society, Role of Intellectuals, Types of War
- b) **Jurgen Habermas:** Legitimation Crisis, Theory of Communicative Action

Unit- III: Feminist Thinkers

- a) **Marry Wollstonecraft:** Men's right and women's freedom, Idea of Women Education
- b) **Carole Pateman:** The Sexual Contract; Democracy, Participation and Obligation; Patriarchy, Contract and Property

Unit- IV: Contemporary Liberalism & Its Critics

- a) **John Rawls:** Justice as Fairness, Original Position, Veil of Ignorance
- b) **Michel Foucault:** Power and Freedom, Governmentality and Ethics

Essential Readings:

- ✓ *Heywood, A. (2004). Political Theory: An Introduction. Palgrave Macmillan.*
- ✓ *Mukherjee, S., & Ramaswamy, S. (2004). A History of Political Thought: Plato to Marx. PHI Learning.*
- ✓ *Nelson, B. R. (2006). Western political thought. Pearson Education India.*
- ✓ *Russell, B. (2005). History of Western philosophy. Routledge.*
- ✓ *Sabine, G. H. (2018). History of Political Theory. Oxford and IBH Publishers.*
- ✓ *Skinner, Q. (2002). The Foundations of Modern Political Thought (Vol. 1, The Renaissance). Cambridge University Press.*
- ✓ *Wayper, C. L. (2007). Teach Yourself Political Thought. Surjeet Publication.*

Additional Reading:

- ✓ *Hampsher-Monk, I. W. (1981). Modern political thought from Hobbes to Marx. Basil Blackwell.*
- ✓ *McLellan, D. (1979). Marxism after Marx. Palgrave Macmillan.*
- ✓ *Mehta, V. R. (1968). Hegel and the modern state: An introduction to Hegel's Political Thought. Associated Publishing House.*
- ✓ *Rawls, J. (1993). Political Liberalism. Columbia University Press.*

Internet Resources

1. Collin McLearn. (2021). *Thought's Dialectic- PHIL 4/880*. Collin McLearn. <https://phil880.colinmclear.net/materials/handouts/week-13-hegel-dialectic.pdf>
2. Rosen, Michael. *Marx, Karl*. Harvard University. https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/michaelrosen/files/karl_marx.pdf
3. eGyanKosh. *Mary Wollstonecraft's 'A Vindication of the Rights of Woman': With Strictures on Political and Moral Subject*. IGNOU <https://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/83771/1/Unit-2.pdf>
4. Phillips, Anne & Medearis, John & O'Neill, Daniel. (2010). Profile: The Political Theory of Carole Pateman. *Political Science & Politics*. DOI: 10.1017/S1049096510001629. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259403214_Profile_The_Political_Theory_of_Carole_Pateman
5. Ukanga, Lambert. (2018). A Study of John Rawls' Political Morality. *ResearchGate*. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327871226_A_STUDY_OF_JOHN_RAWLS'_POLITICAL_MORALITY
6. eGyanKosh. *Michel Foucault*. IGNOU <https://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/5004/1/MWG-007B2E-U4.pdf>

Activities to do:

1. Ask the students to pick ideas of the thinkers which they find relevant in contemporary world and give a presentation on it. For instance: Karl Marx and technology as a tool for alienation.
2. Arrange a movie session on biopics made on these above thinkers and ask the students to write summaries on the same.
3. Refer to the original writings of these thinkers and read a book review and share your thoughts among other students and teachers.