Morigaon College (Autonomous)

Morigaon: Assam

SYLLABUS

Political Science

PG

(1st Semester)

Department of Political Science
Morigaon College(A)
Syllabus: PG 1st Semester

Semester I	
Course Title	Contemporary Political Theory
Course Code	POL-PG-MCA-1014
Nature of the Course	COMPULSORY
Total Credits	4
Distribution of Marks	40(INT)+60(ESE)

No. of required classes: 60

Course Objectives:

The course aims to

- Familiarize the students with different ways of conceptualising central ideas of modern western political theory and the different perspectives on current issues that they lead to.
- Enable them to identify and locate the debates in a systematic manner and generate critical insights upon them.

Course Outcomes:

After completing this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand the emerging trends in contemporary political theory.
- Develop critical views on the issues and concepts.
- Evaluate the contributions made towards conceptual understanding of political theory.

Unit	Content
Unit I	**Debates around Liberty, Equality and Justice**
	a. Nature of liberty: Isaiah Berlin b. Capability Approach to Equality: Amartya Sen c. Communitarian Approach to Justice: Michael Sandel
Unit II	**Power, its Forms and Domains**
	a. Varied forms of Power: Michel Foucault b. Totalitarianism: Hannah Arendt c. Civil society: Michael Walzer
Unit III	**Citizenship**
	a. Perspectives on Citizenship: T H Marshall b. Feminist critique of citizenship: Ruth Lister c. Differentiated Citizenship: Iris Marion Young
Unit IV	**Identity & Recognition**
	a. Politics of Identity and Recognition: Charles Taylor b. Multicultural Identity: Will Kymlicka c. National Identity in a Multicultural Society: Bhikhu Parekh

Suggested Readings:

Arendt, H. (1951). *The origins of totalitarianism*. Harcourt Brace.

Benhabib, S. (2002). *The claims of culture: Equality and diversity in the global era*. Princeton University Press.

Berlin, I. (1969). *Four essays on liberty*. Oxford University Press.

Bhargava, R. (Ed.). (1998). *Secularism and its critics*. Oxford University Press.

Farrelly, C. (2004a). *Introduction to contemporary political theory*. SAGE Publications.

Farrelly, C. (Ed.). (2004b). *Contemporary political theory: A reader*. SAGE Publications.

Foucault, M. (2000). *Power* (J. D. Faubion, Ed.; R. Hurley et al., Trans.). The New Press.

Fukuyama, F. (2018). *Identity: The demand for dignity and the politics of resentment*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
Gauba, O. P. (2021). *An introduction to political theory* (8th ed.). National Publishing House.
Habermas, J. (1994). Citizenship and national identity. In B. van Steenbergen (Ed.), *The condition of citizenship* (pp. 20–35). SAGE Publications.
Heywood, A. (2015). *Political theory: An introduction* (4th ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.
Johari, J. C. (1987). *Contemporary political theory: Basic concepts and major trends*. Sterling Publishers.
Kymlicka, W. (1995). *Multicultural citizenship: A liberal theory of minority rights*. Oxford University Press.
Kymlicka, W. (2002). *Contemporary political philosophy: An introduction* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
Lister, R. (1997). Citizenship: Towards a feminist synthesis. *Feminist Review*, (57), 28–48. http://www.jstor.org/stable/1395800
Mouffe, C. (1992). *Dimensions of radical democracy: Pluralism, citizenship, community*. Verso.
Nusbaum, M. C. (2011). *Creating capabilities: The human development approach*. Harvard University Press.
Parekh, B. (1999). National identity in a multicultural society. In M. Anwar, P. Roach, & R. Sondhi (Eds.), *From Frome to Europe: The changing face of British multiculturalism*. Commission for Racial Equality.
Parekh, B. (2000). *Rethinking multiculturalism: Cultural diversity and political theory*. Palgrave Macmillan.
Rawls, J. (2005). *Political liberalism* (Expanded ed.). Columbia University Press.
Sandel, M. J. (1984). The procedural republic and the unencumbered self. *Political Theory*, *12*(1), 81–96. http://www.jstor.org/stable/191382
Sandel, M. J. (2009). *Justice: What's the right thing to do?* Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
Sen, A. (1980). Equality of what? In S. McMurrin (Ed.), *The Tanner lectures on human values* (Vol. 1, pp. 195–220). Cambridge University Press.
Shachar, A., Bauböck, R., Bloemraad, I., & Vink, M. (Eds.). (2017). *The Oxford handbook of citizenship*. Oxford University Press. https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198805854.001.0001
Taylor, C. (1994). The politics of recognition. In A. Gutmann (Ed.), *Multiculturalism: Examining the politics of recognition* (pp. 25–73). Princeton University Press.
Young, I. M. (1989). Polity and group difference: A critique of the ideal of universal citizenship. *Ethics*, *99*(2), 250–274. http://www.jstor.org/stable/2381434
Young, I. M. (1990). *Justice and the politics of difference*. Princeton University Press.

Semester I	
Course Title	Public Institutions in India
Course Code	POL-PG-MCA-1024
Nature of the Course	COMPULSORY
Total Credits	4
Distribution of Marks	40(INT)+60(ESE)

No. of required classes: 60

Course Objectives:

The course aims to

- Analyse the foundational principles and institutional design of key public institutions in India.
- Assess the designated role and actual functioning of the Public institutions in India
- Engage with recent debates regarding the powers and limits of public institutions.

Course Outcomes:

After completing this course, the students will be able to:

- Summarise the working of political history and changing nature of Key Public Institutions of India
- Examine the crisis, change and continuity which characterise the functioning of public institutions in India.
- Critique the working of public institutions in India.

Unit	Content
UNIT I	**Understanding Public Institutions in India** • Key Public Institutions in India-Constitutional, Statutory, Regulatory and Executive Bodies • Institutional Design of key Public Institutions in India • Importance and Challenges of Public Institution in India
UNIT II	**Governmental Institutions: Functioning and Relationship** • Parliamentary Government and Parliamentary Committee System • Coalition Government and Changing role of President and Prime Minister in Indian Federalism • Judicial Independence, judicial review, Judicial Activism, Judicial Accountability
UNIT III	**Local self-Governance** • Panchayats • Municipalities • Autonomous District Councils and Tribal Councils
UNIT IV	**Institutional Mechanisms** • Issues of Institutional Supremacy • Institutional Mechanisms of India • Commissions

Suggested Readings:

Basu, R. (2015). *Public administration in India: Mandates, performance and future perspectives*. Sterling Publishers.

Bhattacharya, M. (2022). *New horizons of public administration* (9th ed.). Jawahar Publishers.

Chakrabarty, B. (2007). *Reinventing public administration: The Indian experience*. Orient BlackSwan.

Chakrabarty, B., & Chand, P. (2016). *Public policy: Concepts, theory and practice*. Sage Publications.

Chakrabarty, B., & Chand, P. (2017). *Public administration: From government to governance*. Orient BlackSwan.

Gupta, A. (2012). *Red tape: Bureaucracy, structural violence, and poverty in India*. Duke University Press.

Jayal, N. G. (2006). *Representing India: Ethnic diversity and governance of public institutions*. Palgrave Macmillan.
Jayal, N. G., & Mehta, P. B. (Eds.). (2010). *The Oxford companion to politics in India*. Oxford University Press.
Kapur, D., Mehta, P. B., & Vaishnav, M. (Eds.). (2017). *Rethinking public institutions in India*. Oxford University Press.
Mathur, K. (2013). *Public policy and politics in India: How institutions matter*. Oxford University Press.
Pritchett, L., Woolcock, M., & Andrews, M. (2013). Looking like a state: The seduction of isomorphic mimicry can create capability traps for development. *The Journal of Development Studies*, *49*(1), 1–18.
Rudolph, L. I., & Rudolph, S. H. (1987). *In pursuit of Lakshmi: The political economy of the Indian state*. University of Chicago Press.
Sapru, R. K. (2018). *Public policy: Formulation, implementation and evaluation* (3rd ed.). Sterling Publishers.
Sinha, A. (2005). *The regional roots of developmental politics in India: A divided leviathan*. Indiana University Press.

Semester I	
Course Title	Advanced Public Administration
Course Code	POL-PG-MCA-1034
Nature of the Course	COMPULSORY
Total Credits	4
Distribution of Marks	40(INT)+60(ESE)

No. of required classes: 60

Course Objectives:

The course aims to

- introduce the students to a higher level of knowledge in public administration.
- introduce students to the ideas of rationality, efficiency, accountability and transparency, that are key in advance public administration.
- introduces students to the various theories and approaches of managing the organization.
- introduce students to the nuances of public administration necessitated by globalization and current issues including the issue of AI in governance.
- Study the current debates on Governance and role of Social Welfare Administration in Socio-Political and economic contexts.

Course Outcomes:

After completing this course, the students will be:

- familiar with the knowledge of the key concepts employed in advanced public administration.
- well-placed to understand the challenges and changes brought about by globalization and technological developments in public administration, including that the use of AI in governance.
- understanding the idea of administrative culture in relation to public administration, Governance and Development.

Unit	Content
Unit I	**Key Concepts** a. Reinventing Government b. E-Governance c. New Public Service d. New Public Governance
Unit II	**Organizational Theories** a. Decision Making Theory- Simon b. Managing Conflict in Organization- Mary Parker Follet c. Management by Objectives-Peter Drucker d. Theories of Motivation- Douglas and McGregor
Unit III	**Changing Perspectives on Public Administration** a. Development administration and its critique b. Public Administration in the age of Globalization c. Feminist perspective on Public Administration **d.** Use of AI in Governance
Unit IV	**Social Welfare Administration**
	a. Meaning, Principles and approaches b. Implications of Social welfare administration **c.** Impact of neo-liberal economy on Social Welfare Administration d. Case Studies- Ayushman Bharat, PM POSHAN, PMAY, Viksit Bharat- G RAM(G)

Suggested Readings:

Arora, R. K., & Goyal, R. (2013). *Indian public administration: Institutions and issues* (3rd ed.). New Age International Publishers.

Basu, R. (2019). *Public administration: Concepts and theories*. Sterling Publishers.

Bhattacharya, M. (2007). *Public administration*. The World Press.

Bhattacharya, M. (2011). *Public administration: New issues and perspectives*. Jawahar Publishers.

Bhattacharya, M. (2022). *New horizons of public administration* (9th ed.). Jawahar Publishers.

Chakrabarty, B., & Chand, P. (2017). *Public administration: From government to governance*. Orient BlackSwan.

Dunleavy, P., Margetts, H., Bastow, S., & Tinkler, J. (2008). *Digital era governance: IT corporations, the state, and e-government* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

Fadia, B. L., & Fadia, K. (2021). *Public administration: Administrative theories and concepts*. Sahitya Bhawan Publications.

Hood, C., & Margetts, H. (2007). *The tools of government in the digital age*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Indian Institute of Public Administration. (2025). *Emerging trends in public policy and public administration*. Prints Publications.

Laxmikanth, M. (2019). *Public administration* (2nd ed.). McGraw-Hill Education.

Maheshwari, S. R. (2002). *Administrative theories*. Allied Publishers.

Margetts, H. (2022). Rethinking AI for good governance. *Daedalus*, *151*(2), 360–371. https://doi.org/10.1162/DAED_a_01922

Mathur, K. (2013). *Public policy and politics in India: How institutions matter*. Oxford University Press.

Mathur, K. (Ed.). (1996). *Development policy and administration*. Sage Publications.

Sapru, R. K. (2018). *Public policy: Formulation, implementation and evaluation* (3rd ed.). Sterling Publishers.

Wirtz, B. W., & Müller, W. M. (2019). An integrated artificial intelligence framework for public sector administration. *Public Management Review*, *21*(7), 1076–1100

SEMESTER I (PG)	
Course Title	Theories of International Relations
Course Code	POL-PG-MCA-1044
Nature of Course	Major
Total Credits	4
Distribution of Marks	60 (End-Sem) + 40 (In-Sem)

No. of Classes Required: 60

Course Objectives:

- The course aims to introduce the students to the theories of international
- relations.
- Familiarize the students with the different theoretical perspectives of IR
- Help the students to follow the recent developments in theoretical understanding of IR
- Demonstrate the eurocentrism of mainstream IR theory and the emerging third world insights.

Course Outcome:

- Explain the different theoretical tradition of IR
- Use the theoretical insights to understand the realities/events of IR
- Analyze the historical, geographical and political biases of existing IR theories
- Assess the strength and weakness of existing theories of IR
- Develop theoretical/analytical framework for academic writing in the field of International Relations.

Unit	Content
Unit I	**Introduction to IR** a. Meaning and status of theory in IR b. Three images/Levels of analysis **c.** History and scope of the discipline
Unit II	**Major Theoretical Traditions of IR** a. Classical Realism(Morgenthau) and Neo-Realism (Kenneth Waltz) b. Liberalism (Immanuel Kant) and Neo-Liberalism (Robert Keohane & Joseph Nye) c. Marxist-Leninst Perspectives (Rosa Luxemberg) and
Unit III	**Alternative theoretical approaches of IR** a. Critical Theory b. Feminist understanding of IR c. Human Security Approach
Unit IV	**International Relations & Third world** a. Subaltern Realism **b.** Peripheral Realism **c.** Dependency theory (Andre Gunder Frank)

Suggested Readings:

Acharya, A., & Buzan, B. (Eds.). (2010). *Non-Western international relations theory: Perspectives on and beyond Asia*. Routledge.

Brown, C. (1985). Development and dependency. In M. Light & A. J. R. Groom (Eds.), *International relations: A handbook of current theory*. Frances Pinter.

Burke, A. (2010). Postmodernism. In C. Reus-Smit & D. Snidal (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of international relations* (pp. 359–378). Oxford University Press.

Buzan, B. (1995). The levels of analysis problem in international relations reconsidered. In K. Booth & S. Smith (Eds.), *International relations theory today*. Polity Press.

Devetak, R. (1996). Critical theory. In S. Burchill & A. Linklater (Eds.), *Theories of international relations* (pp. 145–178). Macmillan Press.

Doyle, M. W. (2013). Kant, liberal legacies and foreign affairs. In S. P. Handler (Ed.), *International politics: Classic and contemporary readings* (pp. 75–81). CQ Press.

Elshtain, J. B. (1995). Feminist theme and international relations. In J. Der Derian (Ed.), *International theory: Critical investigations* (pp. 340–360). New York University Press.

Grieco, J. M. (1988). Anarchy and the limits of cooperation: A realist critique of the newest liberal institutionalism. *International Organization*, *42*(3), 485–507. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818300027715

Keohane, R. O. (1986). Theory of world politics: Structural realism and beyond. In R. O. Keohane (Ed.), *Neorealism and its critics* (pp. 158–202). Columbia University Press.

Keohane, R. O. (2010). A functional theory of regimes. In R. J. Art & R. Jervis (Eds.), *International politics: Enduring concepts and contemporary issues* (pp. 131–137). Longman.

Keohane, R. O. (2013). Harmony, cooperation and discord. In S. P. Handler (Ed.), *International politics: Classic and contemporary readings* (pp. 92–99). CQ Press.

Lamborn, A. C. (1997). Theory and the politics in world politics. *International Studies Quarterly*, *41*(2), 187–214.

Morgenthau, H. J. (1993). *Politics among nations: The struggle for power and peace* (Brief ed.). McGraw-Hill. (Original work published 1948)

Paterson, M. (1996). IR theory: Neorealism, neoinstitutionalism and the Climate Change Convention. In J. Vogler & M. F. Imber (Eds.), *The environment and international relations* (pp. 64–83). Routledge.

Price, R., & Reus-Smit, C. (1998). Dangerous liaisons? Critical international theory and constructivism. *European Journal of International Relations*, *4*(3), 259–294.

Ruggie, J. G. (1986). Continuity and transformation in the world polity: Towards a neo-realist synthesis. In R. O. Keohane (Ed.), *Neorealism and its critics*. Columbia University Press.

Tickner, J. A. (2010). A critique of Morgenthau's principles of realism. In R. J. Art & R. Jervis (Eds.), *International politics: Enduring concepts and contemporary issues* (pp. 17–28). Longman.

Waltz, K. N. (1954). *Man, the state and war: A theoretical analysis*. Columbia University Press.

Waltz, K. N. (1979a). Laws and theories. In K. N. Waltz, *Theory of international politics*. McGraw-Hill.

Waltz, K. N. (1979b). Political structures. In K. N. Waltz, *Theory of international politics*. McGraw-Hill.

Waltz, K. N. (1979c). Reductionist and systemic theories. In K. N. Waltz, *Theory of international politics*. McGraw-Hill.

Wendt, A. (1995). Anarchy is what states make of it: The social construction of power politics. In J. Der Derian (Ed.), *International theory: Critical investigations* (pp. 129–177). New York University Press.

Wight, M. (1995). Why is there no international theory? In J. Der Derian (Ed.), *International theory: Critical investigations*. New York University Press.

Semester I	
Course Title	Research Methodology
Course Code	POL-PG-MCA-1054
Nature of the Course	COMPULSORY
Total Credits	4
Distribution of Marks	40(INT)+60(ESE)

No. of required classes: 60

Course Objectives:

The course aims to

- deal with the issues, concepts and themes that remain integral to the understanding of research methodology.
- Introduce students to the idea of research and explains the significance of understanding the idea of theories, methods and methodology and concerned techniques employed in social science research.
- Discuss the possibility of scientific research in the study of Social and Political phenomena.
- Teach students about identification and formulation of research problem and subsequent formulation of Research design.

Course Outcomes:

After completing this course, the students will be able to:

- Illustrate the different types of Research methods in Social Sciences as well as different approaches of research within the discipline of Political Science.
- Describe the basic and essential philosophical underpinnings of research and to Sketch and utilize the sequential process involved in research design
- Explain the significance of research in Political Science.

Unit	Content
Unit I	**What is Research?** • Research: Meaning and Types. • Idea of Social Science Research, Types of Research in Social Science • Debates in Social Science Research: Positivism and Problem of Objectivity • Prospect of Scientific Methods in Political Science
Unit II	**Research Design** • Research Design: Understanding Research Design in Social Science • Preparing Research Design • Survey of Literature • Research Gap, Research Objectives and Research Questions
Unit III	**Data Collection** • Sampling • Observation • Questionnaires • Interviews
Unit IV	**Report Writing and Referencing**
	• Structure of Academic writing • Ethics in Social Science Research: Plagiarism • Referencing Style: APA • Bibliography

Suggested Readings:

Babbie, E. R. (2021). *The practice of social research* (15th ed.). Cengage Learning.

Bryman, A. (2015). *Social research methods* (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.

Burnham, P., Lutz, K. G., Grant, W., & Layton-Henry, Z. (2004). *Research methods in politics*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (5th ed.). SAGE Publications.

Giri, A. K. (Ed.). (2004). *Creative social research: Thinking theories and methods*. Vistaar Publications.

Halperin, S., & Heath, O. (2020). *Political research: Methods and practical skills* (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press.

Harrison, L., & Callan, T. (2013). *Key research concepts in politics and international relations*. SAGE Publications.

Johnson, J. B., Reynolds, H. T., & Mycoff, J. D. (2020). *Political science research methods* (9th ed.). CQ Press.

King, G., Keohane, R. O., & Verba, S. (1994). *Designing social inquiry: Scientific inference in qualitative research*. Princeton University Press.

Kothari, C. R. (2009). *Research methodology: Methods and techniques* (2nd rev. ed.). New Age International Publishers.

Kumar, R. (2019). *Research methodology: A step-by-step guide for beginners* (5th ed.). SAGE Publications.

Lowndes, V., Marsh, D., & Stoker, G. (Eds.). (2018). *Theory and methods in political science* (4th ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.

Marsh, D., & Stoker, G. (Eds.). (2002). *Theory and methods in political science* (2nd ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.

May, T. (2001). *Social research: Issues, methods and process* (3rd ed.). Open University Press.

McNabb, D. E. (2004). *Research methods for political science: Quantitative and qualitative methods*. M.E. Sharpe.

Neuman, W. L. (2014). *Social research methods: Qualitative and quantitative approaches* (7th ed.). Pearson.

O'Leary, Z. (2010). *The essential guide to doing your research project*. SAGE Publications.

Pennings, P., Keman, H., & Kleinnijenhuis, J. (2006). *Doing research in political science: An introduction to comparative methods and statistics* (2nd ed.). SAGE Publications

Yin, R. K. (2018). *Case study research and applications: Design and methods* (6th ed.). SAGE Publications.