

**DIRECTORATE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL  
SYLLABUS FOR  
BA PROGRAMME IN POLITICAL SCIENCE: 3 YEARS (6 SEMESTERS)  
UNDER CHOICE BASED CREDIT SYSTEM (CBCS)**

# **DETAILED SYLLABUS OF BA PROGRAMME IN POLITICAL SCIENCE UNDER CBCS**

## **DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE (DSC)**

### **DSC – 1: PAPER – I (SEMESTER – I)**

#### **UNDERSTANDING POLITICALSCIENCE**

##### 1. Politics and Political Science

- (i) Meaning of Politics, Nature and Scope of Political Science
- (ii) Political Science: Science or an Art, Behaviouralism and Post-Behaviouralism.
- (iii) Relationship of Political Science with History, Economics and Sociology
- (iv) Nature and Types of political theory.  
Relationship between Political Theory and Political Philosophy

##### 2. STATE

- (i) Elements of State
- (ii) Difference between State and Government, State and Society, State and Association. (iii) Theories of the State: Social Contract, Idealist, Liberal and Neo-liberal, Anarchist.
- (iv) Sovereignty: Features, Kinds, Monistic and Pluralistic Theory: changing concept of Sovereignty in the context of Globalization.

##### 3. THEORIES OF ORIGIN OF STATE

- (i) Social Contract Theory
- (ii) Historical Theory
- (iii) Marxist Theory

##### 4. FUNCTIONS OF STATE

- (i) Liberal Theory of Functions of State
- (ii) Welfare Theory of Functions of State
- (iii) Marxist Theory of Functions of State

##### 5. Rights, Liberty and Equality and Justice: Interrelationship- Different Concepts and Theories.

## **DSC – 1: PAPER – II (SEMESTER – II)**

### **INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

1. Framing of Indian Constitution: An outline; Philosophy of the Constitution: The Preamble, Salient Features of the Constitution.
2. Fundamental Rights; Fundamental Duties, Directive Principles of State Policy, Amendment of the Constitution
3. Executive: Union and the States.
  - (a) President, Prime Minister, and the Council of Ministers.
  - (b) Governor, Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers.
  - (c) Emergency Provisions.
4. Legislature: Union and the States
  - (a) Council of States and the House of the People - Law-making procedure and Amendment – Speaker
  - (b) State Legislature– composition and functions.
5. Judiciary: Supreme Court and the High Court’s – composition and jurisdiction
6. Relations between the Union and the States: Legislative, Administrative, Financial -- Election Commission: composition and functions—Decentralisation: Rural and Urban local bodies.
7. Politics: Party system in India: main features–national parties, regional parties- Coalition Politics: nature and trends- Groups in Indian politics: Business, Working Class and Peasants -- Religion in Indian politics– secularism and the Indian state--Caste in Indian politics– the issue of reservation.

## **DSC – 1: PAPER – III (SEMESTER – III)**

### **COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

1. ***Comparative Politics: development, nature and scope.***
2. Approaches to the study of Comparative Politics: Institutional and Neo-institutional, Systems and Structural-functional, Marxist.
3. Major governing principles: Constitutionalism; Conventions; Rule of law; Parliamentary sovereignty; Separation of powers; Judicial Review; Democratic Centralism; Referendum and Initiative.
4. Comparative studies of Legislature, Executive and Judiciary: United Kingdom, United States, China and France.
5. Federalism: U.S.A. and Russia.
6. Comparative studies of Party systems: Liberal democracies (U.K., U.S.A), Socialist Political system (People’s Republic of China).

## **DSC – 1: PAPER – IV (SEMESTER – IV)**

### **INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

1. Origin and growth of International Relations (IR) – meaning and scope of IR.
2. Basic concepts: National Power; National Interest; Balance of Power; Bipolarity and Unipolarity; Neo-colonialism.
3. Major Theories of IR: Realist Theory and its Variants; Liberal Theory and its Variants; Marxist Theory; Feminist Theory.
4. Diplomacy; Propaganda.
5. Cold War– an outline;
6. Collective Security: Meaning and Safeguards --Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, Devices under U.N. Charter --Disarmament and Arms Control, Obstacles to Nuclear Disarmament ---Non Proliferation Regime– Basic ideas of NPT,CTBT, FMCT, MTCR.
7. Contemporary issues: Globalization; Environment; Energy; Terrorism.

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**LANGUAGE CORE COURSE (LCC-1)**

**LCC – 1: PAPER – I (SEMESTER – I)**

**BENGALI**

*Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

**LCC – 1: PAPER – I (SEMESTER – I)**

**NEPALI**

*Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

**LCC – 1: PAPER – I (SEMESTER – I)**

**HINDI**

*Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

**LCC – 1: PAPER – II (SEMESTER – III)**

**BENGALI**

*Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

**LCC – 1: PAPER – II (SEMESTER – III)**

**NEPALI**

*Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

**LCC – 1: PAPER – II (SEMESTER – III)**

**HINDI**

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**LANGUAGE CORE COURSE (LCC-2)**

**LCC – 2: PAPER – I (SEMESTER – II)**

*Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

**LCC – 2: PAPER – II (SEMESTER – IV)**

*Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

# DETAILED SYLLABUS OF BA PROGRAMME IN POLITICAL SCIENCE UNDER CBCS

## ABILITY ENHANCEMENT COMPULSORY COURSE (AECC)

### AECC – 1: Environmental Studies (SEMESTER – I)

#### Unit 1: Introduction to environmental studies

- Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies
- Scope and importance; Concept of sustainability and sustainable development

#### Unit 2: Ecosystems

- What is an ecosystem?  
Structure and function of ecosystem; Energy flow in an ecosystem: food chains, food webs and ecological succession. Case studies of the following ecosystems:
  - a) Forest ecosystem
  - b) Grassland ecosystem
  - c) Desert ecosystem
  - d) Aquatic ecosystems (ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, oceans, estuaries)

#### Unit 3: Natural Resources: Renewable and Non – renewable Resources

- Land resources and land-use change; Land degradation, soil erosion and desertification.
- Deforestation: Causes and impacts due to mining, dam building on environment, forests, biodiversity and tribal populations.
- Water: Use and over – exploitation of surface and ground water, floods, droughts, conflicts over water (international & inter-state), Dams – benefits and problems.
- Food resources: World food problems, changes caused by agriculture and over-grazing, effects of modern agriculture, fertilizer-pesticide problems, water logging, salinity.
- Energy resources: Renewable and non-renewable energy sources, use of alternate energy sources, growing energy needs, case studies

#### Unit 4: Biodiversity and Conservation

- Levels of biological diversity: genetic, species and ecosystem diversity; Bio-geographic zones of India; Biodiversity patterns and global biodiversity hotspots.
- India as a mega-biodiversity nation; Endangered and endemic species of India, threats to biodiversity: Habitat loss, poaching of wildlife, man-wildlife conflicts, biological invasions.
- Conservation of biodiversity: In – situ and Ex –situ conservation of biodiversity.
- Ecosystem and biodiversity services: Ecological, economic, social, ethical, aesthetic and Informational value.

#### Unit 5: Environmental Pollution

- Environmental pollution: types, causes, effects and controls; Air, water, soil and noise pollution
- Nuclear hazards and human health risks
- Solid waste management: Control measures of urban and industrial waste.
- Pollution case studies

### **Unit 6: Environmental Policies & Practices**

- Climate change, global warming, ozone layer depletion, acid rain and impacts on human communities and agriculture
- Environment Laws: Environment Protection Act; Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act; Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act; Wildlife Protection Act; Forest Conservation Act. International agreements: Montreal and Kyoto protocols and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Nature reserves, tribal populations and rights, and human wildlife conflicts in Indian context.

### **Unit 7: Human Communities and the Environment**

- Human population growth: Impacts on environment, human health and welfare.  
Resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected persons; case studies.
- Disaster management: floods, earthquake, cyclones and landslides.
- Water conservation, rain water harvesting, water shed management.
- Wasteland reclamation.
- Environmental movements: Chipko, Silent valley, Bishnois of Rajasthan.
- Environmental ethics: Role of Indian and other religions and cultures in environmental conservation.
- Environmental communication & public awareness, case studies (e.g., CNG vehicles in Delhi).

### **Assignment (Marks–20)**

*(To be chosen from English, Bengali, Nepali and Hindi)*

#### **AECC – 2: English Communication (SEMESTER – III)**

*Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

#### **AECC – 2: Bengali Communication (SEMESTER – III)**

*Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

#### **AECC – 2: Nepali Communication (SEMESTER – III)**

*Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

#### **AECC – 2: Hindi Communication (SEMESTER – III)**

*Common approved syllabus to be followed.*



# DETAILED SYLLABUS OF BA PROGRAMME IN POLITICAL SCIENCE UNDER CBCS

## SKILL ENHANCEMENT COURSE (SEC)

### SEC – 1: PAPER - I (SEMESTER – III)

#### DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL AWARENESS

1. Outline of the Legal system in India:
  - (a) System of courts/tribunals and their jurisdiction in India - criminal and civil courts, writ jurisdiction, specialized courts such as juvenile courts, Mahila courts and tribunals.
  - (b) Role of the police and executive in criminal law administration.
  - (c) Alternate dispute mechanisms such as Lok Adalats, non- formal mechanisms.
2. Brief understanding of the laws applicable in India
  - (a) Constitution - fundamental rights, fundamental duties, other constitutional rights and their manner of enforcement, with emphasis on public interest litigation and the expansion of certain rights under Article 21 of the Constitution.
    - (b) Laws relating to criminal jurisdiction - provision relating to filing an FIR, arrest, bail search and seizure and some understanding of the questions of evidence and procedure in Cr. P.C. and related laws, important offences under the Indian Penal Code, offences against women, juvenile justice, prevention of atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes., Concepts like Burden of Proof, Presumption of Innocence, Principles of Natural Justice, Fair comment under Contempt laws.
    - (c) Personal laws in India : Pluralism and Democracy
    - (d) Laws relating to contract, property and tenancy laws.
    - (e) Laws relating to dowry, sexual harassment and violence against women
    - (f) Laws relating to consumer rights

- (g) Laws relating to cybercrimes
- (h) Anti-terrorist laws: implications for security and human rights
- 3. Practical application: Visit to either a (I) court or (ii) a legal aid centre set up by the Legal Services Authority or an NGO or (iii) a Lok Adalat, and to interview a litigant or person being counselled. Preparation of a case history.
- 4. Access to courts and enforcement of rights
  - (a) Critical Understanding of the Functioning of the Legal System
  - (b) Legal Services Authorities Act and right to legal aid, ADR systems
  - (c) Practical application :What to do if you are arrested ; if you are a consumer with a grievance; if you are a victim of sexual harassment; domestic violence, child abuse, caste, ethnic and religious discrimination; filing a public interest litigation. How can you challenge administrative orders that violate rights, judicial and administrative remedies
- 5. Using a hypothetical case of (for example) child abuse or sexual harassment or any Other violation of a right, preparation of an FIR or writing a complaint addressed to the appropriate authority.

**SEC – 1: Paper - II (SEMESTER – IV)**

*Other Discipline. Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

**SEC – 2: PAPER – I (SEMESTER – V)**

*Other Discipline. Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

**SEC – 2: PAPER – II (SEMESTER – VI)**

*Other Discipline. Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

# **DETAILED SYLLABUS OF BA PROGRAMME IN POLITICAL SCIENCE UNDER CBCS**

## **DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE (DSE)**

### **DSE – 1: PAPER – I (SEMESTER – V)**

#### **PARTY SYSTEM IN INDIA**

1. Political Party
  - i. Meaning of Political Parties and Kinds of Political Parties
  - ii. Features and Characteristics of Indian Party System
  - iii. Emerging Trends in Indian Party System
2. National Political Parties
  - i. INC: Organization, Ideology, Policies and Nature of Mass Support
  - ii. BJP: Organization, ideology, Policies and Nature of Mass Support
  - iii. Electoral Performance of INC and BJP
3. Some Major Political Parties
  - i. CPI (M) Organization, Ideology, Policies and Nature of Mass support
  - ii. BSP: Organization, Ideology, Policies and Nature of Mass Support
  - iii. Electoral Performance of CPI (M), BSP, AITMC.
4. Regional Political Parties
  - i. Emergence of Regional Political Parties and Regionalization of Regional Forces.
  - ii. Impact of Regional Political Parties and National Politics : Different Coalitions at Centre

### **DSE – 1: PAPER – II (SEMESTER – VI)**

#### **HUMANRIGHTS**

1. Human Rights: Historical Background: A Brief History of Human Rights Theory  
-----Difference between Civil Liberties, Democratic Rights and Human Rights ---Are

Human Rights Universal? --- Are Human Right Incontrovertible or Subjective ? -- Ethics and Social Practice

2. Aspects of Human Rights--Human Rights and Theoretical Traditions --Human Rights: Modernity and Democratization -- The State and Human Rights Theory -- Human Rights and World Politics

3. Areas and Issues in Human Rights: Nature of Human Rights Violation --Human Rights and United Nations --State: Protection and Regulation (With Special reference to India)

4. Social Aspects : Women and Human Rights --Children and Woman Rights -- Poverty and Human Rights --The Environment and Human Rights

**DSE – 2: PAPER – I (SEMESTER – V)**

*Other Discipline. Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

**DSE – 2: PAPER – II (SEMESTER – VI)**

*Other Discipline. Common approved syllabus to be followed.*

# DETAILED SYLLABUS OF BA PROGRAMME IN POLITICAL SCIENCE UNDER CBCS

## GENERIC ELECTIVE (GE)

### GE – 1: PAPER – I (SEMESTER – V)

#### READING GANDHI

**Gandhi in his own words: A close reading of Hind Swaraj. 2. Commentaries on Hind Swaraj and Gandhian thought:** “Introduction”, M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj and other writings ed. A. J. Parel (1997)

B. Parekh, Gandhi (1997), chs.4 (“Satyagraha”) and 5 (“The critique of modernity”).

D. Hardiman, Gandhi in his time and ours (2003), ch.4 (“An alternative modernity”)

#### 3. Gandhi and modern India.

- a. Nationalism.
- b. Communal unity
- c. Women’s Question
- d. Untouchability.

This component will contain the following selections from Gandhi’s India of my Dreams (Compiled R. K. Prabhu): “The meaning of Swaraj” (no.2); “In defence of Nationalism” (no.3); “India’s cultural heritage” (no.45); “Regeneration of Indian women” (no.54); “Women’s education” (no.55); “Communal unity” (no.59); “The curse of untouchability” (no.61); “Religious tolerance in India” (no.62); “The problem of minorities” (no.66)

#### 4. Gandhi’s Legacy

- a) Tolerance: Anti - Racism Movements (Anti - Apartheid and Martin Luther King)
- b) The Pacifist Movement
- c) Women’s Movements
- d) *Gandhigiri*: Perceptions in Popular Culture

### GE – 1: PAPER – II (SEMESTER – VI)

#### 1. Approaches to understanding Patriarchy

- (a) Feminist theorising of the sex/gender distinction. Biologism versus social constructivism
- (b) Understanding Patriarchy and Feminism
- (c) Liberal, Socialist, Marxist, Radical feminism, New Feminist Schools/ Traditions

#### 2. History of Feminism

- (a) Origins of Feminism in the West: France, Britain and United States of America
- (b) Feminism in the Socialist Countries: China, Cuba and erstwhile USSR
- (c) Feminist issues and women’s participation in anti-colonial and national liberation movements with special focus on India

#### 3. The Indian Experience

- (a) Traditional Historiography and Feminist critiques. Social Reforms Movement and position of women in India. History of Women's struggle in India
- (b) Family in contemporary India - patrilineal and matrilineal practices. Gender Relations in the Family, Patterns of Consumption: Intra Household Divisions, entitlements and bargaining, Property Rights
- (c) Understanding Woman's Work and Labour – Sexual Division of Labour, Productive and Reproductive labour, Visible - invisible work – Unpaid (reproductive and care), Underpaid and Paid work,- Methods of computing women's work , Female headed Households