

Centre of Comparative Politics and Political Theory
School of International Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Course	M.A. (PISM)
Course No.	IS479N
Course Title	Ancient Indian Political Thought and The World
Course Type	Optional
Semester	Winter Session
Course Teacher & Contact details	Dr. Ravi Rameshchandra Associate Professor, CCPPT Room no. 129, SIS – I, JNU. ravirshukla@jnu.ac.in , 011- 26738952
Credit	4
Contact hours	4 hours / week
Class Schedule & Room number	To be allotted
Tutorial	1 hour / week ((for difficulties & discussion if required)

Course Objective:

The learning objectives of this course are to:

1. Teach students to read classical works of political theory for the key concepts and themes that ground the Indic - political worldview.
2. To develop skill, approach, attitude and methodology for international studies amongst learners based upon ancient Indian thought and philosophy.
3. Help students think more deeply about the demands of engaged citizenship, the concept of justice, the tension between the individual and the community, the question of power, and the relationship between ethics and politics.

4. To create reinvigorate the ideas and policies of ancient India for a complex world politics and ethics, especially in the areas of foreign policy, diplomacy, war and peace, international relations, role of state and rules etc.

Course Description :

The course is relevant for the post graduate level students as they will get to learn what N. D. Palmer suggested, *“Ancient Indian political thoughts deals with many subjects, which have bulked large in political theory of the western world. Among these are the nature and origin of the State, types of States, the relation of State and Society, the forms of government, the origin of kingship, the duties of kingship, the duties of kings, royal authority and its limitations, power politics, diplomacy and administration, state of nature, the social contact and sovereignty. Possibly even international level, conflicting theories of international relations can be found in ancient Indian thoughts as well into modern world.”*

The fundamental ideas of Indian political thought as scientific fields of knowledge about the political systems, ideologies, and institutions of ancient India. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the various facets of Indian political ideas and institutions as presented in ancient texts, including the Nitishastra (Vedic Samhitas, Bhagvadgita, Valmiki Ramayana, Mahabharata, Puranas, and Kautilyas Arthashastra). The political thoughts and philosophy in ancient India is very much necessary to understand, explain and analysis of the problems of modern world. A deep and critical understanding can help the learners to analyses and compare the Indian and Western thoughts and ideas. It will be inclined to compare and contrast the Indian thoughts with western thoughts. It aims to address the need to find indigenous tools and concepts necessary to understand the Indian society, social institutions, polity, political institutions and economic systems across the world. Study of indigenous concepts and ideas on State, Society and Service of politics is necessary to develop better academic approach to the real world problems. The course aims at understanding the results of vertical perspective on the concept of state. It also aims at understanding the concepts like Dharma (not religion). State and Dharma constitute the backbone of the Indian Political Thoughts.

The main objective of the course is to develop an insight into the applicability and utility of ancient Indian political thoughts in terms of evolution of state, duties of the rulers and the citizens, the political obligations, division of labour, social stratification, rights and progress of women, several types of laws, local administration, financial management, war- peace and reconciliation, diplomacy, patterns of consumption, production and distribution of resources in the society. Many western political philosophies and ideologies draw influence and inspiration from Indian thoughts.

Learning outcomes:

Knowledge gained: About the political ideas of Indian thinkers covering both ancient political thinkers and ideas.

Skill gained: Understanding and contextualizing the ideas to contemporary realities. It will enable them to find and suggest the ways and means to advance and protect national interest as well as domestic policy.

Competency gained: Develop the ability to critically assess and form opinions on philosophical and ideological issues relevant to contemporary India. It has the potential to create statesman and policy makers, policy thinkers, who can lead the world towards more peaceful, prosperity and ethical coexistence.

Mode of Instruction:

- a. Lectures
- b. Guided reading of selected texts in the class
- c. Participatory discussions, presentations etc.

Evaluation Method:

Mid-Semester Evaluation (50%) (Compulsory)

- Book/Article Review or Term Paper (25%)

- Mid-Semester Examination (25%)

• End-Semester Evaluation (50%) (Compulsory) --End-Semester Examination

• SIS Research Manual should be used as a guide for written assignments. Available at: https://www.jnu.ac.in/sites/default/files/SIS_Research_Manual_0.pdf

• Students must maintain a high degree of academic integrity, which includes but is not limited to abstaining from copying and plagiarism. For details on plagiarism and research ethics, refer to SIS Research Manual.

Course Content

Module - I	Name, Scope and Sources of Ancient Indian Political Thought (1 to 4 week)
a.	Scope of Indian Political Thought
b.	Sources of Ancient Indian Political Thought
Module - II	Theory of State and Statecraft (5 to 8 week)
a.	Nature of the State
b.	Types of the State
Module – III	Policy of War and Peace Diplomacy (9 to 12 week)
a.	‘Mandala ‘Theory of Inter-State Relations
b.	Diplomacy in Mahabharata and Ramayana
Module – IV	Elements of Democracy (13 to 16 week)
a.	Election and Essential Qualities of King
b.	Republics in the Buddhist and Jain Period
Module – V	Institutions (17 to 20 week)
a.	Legislative and Executive
b.	Judiciary and <i>Dandaniti</i>
Module - VI	Elements of Society and Ethics (21 to 24 week)
a.	Position of Women in the Society
b.	<i>Ecodharma</i>

Original Sources and Course Readings

I. Name, Scope and Sources of Ancient Indian Political Thought:

a. Scope of Indian Political Thought:

Relation with Dharma, Artha and Nīti;

b. Sources of Ancient Indian Political Thought: Vedic Literature, Purāṇa, Rāmāyaṇa, Mahābhārata, Dharmasāstra, Nītiśāstra Kautilya's Arthasāstra and Rajaśāsana (Inscriptions).

II. Theory of State and Statecraft

a. Nature of the State:

(**Readings:** Arthasāstra (6.1) and Manusmṛiti (9.294) with Special reference to Saptāṅga Theory of State: Svāmī, Amātya, Janapada, Pura, Kośa, Daṇḍa and Mitra (Arthasāstra- 6.1, Mahābhārata-Śāntiparva-56.5, Śukranīti, 1.61- 62).)

b. Types of the State:

Readings:

'Saptāṅga' Theory of State: Svāmī, Amātya, Janapada, Pura, Kośa, Daṇḍa and Mitra (Arthasāstra- 6.1, Mahābhārata-Śāntiparva-56.5, Śukranīti, 1.61- 62). (Three types of State power 'Śakti': Prabhu Śakti, Mantra Śakti, Utsāha Śakti. (Rājya, Svarājya, Bhojya, Vairājya, Mahārājya, Sāmarājya (Aitreya Brāhmaṇa, 8.3.13-14; 8.4.15-16).)

III. Policy of War and Peace Diplomacy:

a. 'Mandala' Theory of Inter-State Relations

Readings

('Mandala' Theory of Inter-State Relations 'Sadgunya theory' '(Caturvidha Upāya' for balancing the power of State: Śāma, Dāma, Danda, Bheda.

b. Diplomacy in Mahabharata and Ramayana

Readings:

Sandhi, Vighraha, Yāna, Āsana, Sanśraya and Dvaidhībhāva, Valmiki Ramayana, Mahabharata, Role of Shri Krishna, Hanuman, Angad, Kuntak, Vidura)

IV. Elements of Democracy

a. Republics in the Buddhist and Jain Period

Readings:

Coronation Ceremony of the King ‘Samrāta’ (Śatapathabrāhmana, 51.1.8- 13; 9.4.1.1-5) (Diggnikāya, Mahāparinibbā a Sūta, Anguttaranikāya, 1.213; 4.252, 256). (Somadeva’s Nītivākyāmta, 9.1.18 and,19.1.10);

b. Election of King by the People, Essential Qualities of King

Readings:

Visas in Vedic period); (Arthaśāstra, 6.1.16-18); Duties of King and State ‘Rajadharma (Mahābhārata, Śāntiparva, 120.1-15; Manusmti, 7.1-15; Śukranīti,1.1-15) (Rigveda,10.173;10.174, Atharvaveda,3.4.2;6.87.1-2), ‘Rajadharma’ (Mahābhārata, Śāntiparva, 120.1-15; Manusmti, 7.1-15; Śukranīti,1.1-15) (Atharvaveda, 7.12.1;12.1.6 ; Rigveda, 10.85.26).

V. Institutions

a. ‘Sabhā ,‘Samiti’ and ‘Vidatha’ in Vedic and Post Vedic Period

Readings

King-maker Council: ‘Rajakartarah ‘and Ratnis’ in Vedic period (Atharvaveda, 3.5.6-7 and Śatapathabrahma a, 5.2.5.1);

b. Kautilya’s concept of Welfare State

Readings:

(Arthaśāstra, 1.13); Essential Qualities of King (Arthaśāstra, 6.1.16-18);

VI. Elements of Society and Ethics

a. Position of Women in the Society

Readings

Brief survey of position of women in different stages of Society. Position of women in Mahābhārata (Anuśāsanaparva, 46.511, Sabhāparva, 69.4-13. Praise of women in The Bṛhatsaṁhitā of Varāhamihira (Strīprasamsā, chapter-74.1-10). Manusmriti, Narada Smriti, Role of Apala, Ghosha, Maitreyi, Lopamudra

b. Ecodharma

Readings:

Mahabharata (1.62.53), Ecodharma in Mahabharata by Dr. Ravi Khangai in Middle Flight, ISSN 2319-7684, pp 102 – 112.

Suggested Books/Readings:

1. R.P Kangale (ed.) Arthashastra of Kautilya, Motilal Banarasidas, Delhi, 1965.
2. R.T.H. Griffith (Trans.), Atharvaveda Samhita, 1896-97, rept. (2 Vols) 1968.
3. H.P. Shastri, Mahabharata (7 Vols), London, 1952-59.
4. P. Olivelle (ed. & trans.), Manu's Code of Law: A Critical Edition and Translation of the Manava- Dharmashastra, OUP, New Delhi, 2006.
5. H.P. Shastri (trans), Ramayana of Valmiki (3 Vols), London, 1952-59.
6. H.H. Wilson (trans.), Rgveda samhita (6 Vols), Bangalore Printing & Publishing Co., Bangalore, 1946.
7. Jeet Ram Bhatt (ed.), Satapatha Brahmana (3 Vols), EBL, Delhi, 2009.
8. A.S. Altekar, State and Government in Ancient India, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 2001.
9. S.K. Belvalkar, Mahabharata: Santi Parvam, 1954.
10. D.R. Bhandarkar, Some Aspects of Ancient Indian Hindu Polity, Banaras Hindu University.
11. J.R. Gharpure, Teaching of Dharmashastra, Lucknow University, 1956.
12. U.N. Ghosal, A History of Indian Political Ideas, Bombay, 1959.
13. K.P. Jayaswal, Hindu Polity, Bangalore, 1967.
14. N. S Law, Aspect of Ancient Indian Polity, Calcutta, 1960.
15. S.R. Maheshwari, Local Government in India, Orient Longman, New Delhi,
16. Beni Prasad, Theory of Government in Ancient India, Allahabad, 1968.
17. B.A. Saletore, Ancient Indian Political Thought and Institutions, Bombay, 1963.

18. R. S. Sharma, Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, Delhi, 1996.
19. K.N. Sinha, Sovereignty in Ancient Indian Polity, London, 1938.
20. V.P. Verma, Studies in Hindu Political Thought and its Metaphysical Foundations, Delhi, 1954.
21. Basham L. The Wonder that was India, Calcutta, Rupa and Co 1967.
22. Ram Sharan Sharma. Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, Delhi, Motilal Banarasidas 1991.
23. Mackenzie Brown D. The White Umbrella. Jaico 1980.
24. Mabbett W. Truth, Myth and Politics in Ancient India. Thomson Press 1971.
25. Spellman JW. Political Theory of Ancient India Oxford 1964.
26. Saletore BA. Ancient Indian Political Thought and Institutions, Calcutta 1963.
27. Kangle RP. The Kautilya Arthashastra, Delhi. Motilal Banarasidas, 1986;2.
28. Jayaswal KP. Hindu Polity – A Constitutional History of Indian in Hindu Times. Bangalore 1978, 14.
