



**Indraprastha College for Women
University of Delhi**

Work Plan for ODD SEMESTER – 2026

Course Name:	B.A. Programme (Political Science)
Paper Title:	Introduction to Political Theory
Unique Paper Code:	MDSC-1A (Non Major)
Semester:	I
Faculty:	Priyamvada
Year:	2026

Work Plan			
Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be Covered
I	To Understand the meaning, nature and scope of political theory	1-3	What is Political Theory? Meaning, nature and scope
I	To Explain the relevance of political theory	4-6	Why do we need Political Theory? Relevance to political life
I	To Develop normative and critical approaches to political questions	7-9	Normative, historical and empirical approaches to Political Theory
I	To Relate political theory to contemporary political arguments	10-12	Political Theory, political concepts and contemporary debates
I	To Consolidate the nature and significance of political theory	13-15	Review and discussion: nature, scope and relevance of Political Theory
II	To Understand liberty as a foundational political concept	16-18	Liberty: meaning, dimensions and debates
II	To Distinguish major understandings of freedom	19-21	Negative and positive liberty; freedom and restraints
II	To Understand equality and its political significance	22-24	Equality: meaning, dimensions and forms
II	To Examine equality in relation to social and political inequalities	25-27	Equality of opportunity and outcome; equality and difference

II	To Understand competing conceptions of justice	28-30	Justice: meaning, principles and social justice
II	To Apply ideas of justice to distribution and fairness	31-33	Distributive justice, fairness and contemporary concerns
II	To Understand the concept and basis of rights	34-36	Rights: meaning, nature and types
II	To Relate rights to liberty, equality and justice	37-39	Rights, duties and claims; interrelationship among core concepts
III	To Critically examine protective discrimination	40-42	Protective discrimination and principles of fairness
III	To Analyse affirmative action through political theory	43-45	Affirmative action: equality, justice and compensatory discrimination
III	To Understand the public-private distinction from feminist perspectives	46-48	Public vs private debate: feminist perspective
III	To Examine freedom of expression and censorship	49-51	Censorship and its limits; freedom of speech
III	To Apply political theory to contemporary debates	52-54	Synthesis and discussion: fairness, public/private and censorship

Unit	Contents/Syllabus
I	What is Political Theory and what is its relevance?
II	Concepts: Liberty, Equality, Justice, Rights

III	Debates in Political Theory: Protective discrimination and principles of fairness; Public vs private debate - Feminist Perspective; Censorship and its limits
S. No.	Name of Authors/Books/Publishers
1.	Bhargava, R. (2008), “What is Political Theory” and “Why Do We Need Political Theory”, in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.), Political Theory: An Introduction, Pearson Longman.
2.	Sriranjani, V. (2008) “Liberty”; Acharya, A. (2008) “Equality”; Menon, K. (2008) “Justice”; Talukdar, P.S. (2008) “Rights”, in Bhargava, R. and Acharya, A. (eds.), Political Theory: An Introduction, Pearson Longman.
3.	Acharya, A. (2008) “Affirmative Action”; Sethi, A. (2008) “Freedom of Speech and the Question of Censorship”, in Political Theory: An Introduction; Frances E.O. (1985), “The Myth of State Intervention in the Family”.
4.	Suggestive: Berlin, I., “Two Concepts of Liberty”; Rawls, J., A Theory of Justice; Jaggard, A., Feminist Politics and Human Nature; Kukathas, C., “The Demise and Rise of Political Theory”.

	Paper Components		
Credits	Lecture (L)	Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)
4	3	1	-
Assessment Scheme			
S.No.	Component	Marking Scheme	Total Marks
1	Internal Assessment - Assignment - Class Test - Attendance		30
		12 Marks	
		12 Marks	
		06 Marks	
2.	Continuous Assessment (Tutorial) - Activity 1 - Activity 2 - Attendance		40
		15 Marks	
		20 Marks	
		05 Marks	
3.	Practical - Continuous Assessment - End Term Written/Practical	N/A	N/A

	Exam		
	• Viva		
4.	End Semester Examination	90	