



Indraprastha College for Women University of Delhi

Work Plan for ODD SEMESTER – 2026

Course Name:	B.A (H)
Paper Title:	(DSC-2): Ideas and Institutions in Indian Political Thought
Unique Paper Code:	
Semester:	I
Faculty:	Dr. Kuldeep Kumar
Year:	2026

Work Plan			
Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be Covered
I	Students will understand the nature and evolution of statecraft in Ancient India through the study of key political ideas and institutions. They will be able to analyse ancient concepts of governance, administration, diplomacy, and kingship, and assess their relevance to Indian political thought.	Lecture	Statecraft in Ancient India
	Students will understand the nature and evolution of statecraft in Ancient India through the study of key political ideas and institutions. They will be able to analyse ancient concepts of governance, administration, diplomacy, and kingship, and assess their relevance to Indian political thought.	Lecture	
II	Students will understand the concepts of Dharma, Dhamma, and Danda and their significance in Ancient Indian political thought. They will be able to analyse how these ideas shaped governance, justice, ethics, and the exercise of political authority in ancient India.	Lecture	Dharma, Dhamma, Danda
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III	Students will understand the concepts of Nyaya and Niti in Indian political thought and their importance in governance and social order. They will be able to analyse ideas of justice, ethics, morality, and principles of good administration in political practices.	Lecture	Nyaya, Niti
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IV	Students will understand the significance of Sabha and Samiti as early political institutions in Ancient India. They will be able to analyse their role in decision-making, governance, and the development of participatory traditions in Indian political thought.	Lecture	Sabha, Samiti
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V	Students will understand the concepts of Rajya (State) and Rashtra (Nation) in Indian political thought and their historical significance. They will be able to analyse the relationship between political authority, territorial identity, governance, and the evolution of ideas of state and nation in India.	Lecture	Rajya, Rashtra
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VI	Students will understand the concepts of Varna and Jati and their social, cultural, and political significance in Indian society. They will be able to analyse the evolution of caste structures, their impact on social relations, and their influence on political processes in India.		Varna, Jati
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	of caste structures, their impact on social relations, and their influence on political processes in India.		
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			Revision

Unit	Contents/Syllabus
I	Statecraft in Ancient India
II	Dharma, Dhamma, Danda
III	Nyaya, Niti
IV	Sabha, Samiti
V	Rajya, Rashtra
VI	Varna, Jati
S. No.	Name of Authors/Books/Publishers
1.	Benoy Kumar Sarkar, "The Hindu Theory of the State", <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> , Vol. 36, No. 1 (March 1921), pp. 79-90 . Beni Prasad, <i>The State in Ancient India: Study in the Structure and Practical Working of Political Institutions in North India in Ancient Times</i> , The Indian Press, Allahabad, 1928, pp. 1-16
2.	Rupert Gethin, "He who sees Dhamma sees Dhammas: Dhamma in Early Buddhism" in <i>Journal of Indian Philosophy</i> . Vol 32, No5/6 (December 2004) pp.513-542 Margaret Chatterjee, "The Concept of Dharma" in M.C.Doeser and J.N.Kraay (eds.) <i>Facts and Values. Philosophical reflections from Western and Non-Western Perspectives</i> , Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Dordrecht. 1986, PP177-188 John Ross Carter, Traditional Definitions of the Term "Dhamma" <i>Philosophy East and West</i> , Vol. 26, No. 3 (Jul., 1976), pp. 329-337

	Donald R. Davis Jr, “rectitude and rehabilitation (<i>danda</i>) in The Spirit of Hindu Law, Cambridge University Press, NY, 2010, PP.128-143 Radha Krishna Choudhry, “Theory of Punishment in Ancient India” in Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, Vol 10 1947, PP 166-171.
3.	Nyaya, Niti Amartya Sen, “Introduction” in The Idea of Justice, Harvard University Press. 2009 Sarkar, Benoy Kumar Political Institutions, and theories of comparative Politics - pp 158-162 Ghoshal U.N (1983) A History of Hindu Political theory OUP: London pp 213- 222, 247-259

4.	Sabha, Samiti Jagadish P. Sharma, “Non-Monarchical Governments in Vedic India” Republics in Ancient India. Brill, Leiden, 1968, pp.15-60 R.S.Sharma, “Sabha and Samiti” in Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India. Motilal Banarsidass Publishers. Delhi 1999, <i>reprint</i>. Pp105-118
5	Rajya, Rashtra A.S. Altekar, “Origin and Types of the State” in State and Government in Ancient India. Motilal Banarsidass, Banaras. 1949 pp. 12-23 Partha Chatterjee, “All Nations are Modern” in The Truths and Lies of Nationalisms: As narrated by Charvak. Permanent Black. 2021. Pp.5-25
6	Varna, Jati Sudhakar Chattopadhyaya, “Varna-Jati (caste system)” in <i>Social Life in Ancient India</i>. Academic Publishers, Calcutta, 1965, Pp.7-29 Dipankar Gupta, “From Varna to Jati: The Indian Caste System, from the Asiatic to the Feudal Mode of Production”, <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i>, Vol-10:3, 2008. pp.249-271 Nicholas B. Dirks, <i>Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India</i>, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2001, pp. 63-80.

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	12	
	• Class Test	12	
	• Attendance	6	

2.	Continuous Assessment (Tutorial)		
		20	
		15	
		5	
3.	Practical		
	- Continuous Assessment - End Term Written/Practical Exam - Viva		
4.	End Semester Examination		