UNDERGRADUATE COURSE STRUCTURE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, BISWANATH COLLEGE

Being an affiliating college of Gauhati university, Biswanath College has to follow the Course curriculum of the parent university. Though the College follows the course specific outcomes of the university, however the college imparts some more outcomes to the Honours and Regular Courses. The following is the course structure and syllabus for Non-CBCS BA (Major) in Political Science.

**PROGRAMMES OUTCOMES**

**Programme: BA Political Science**

**1. Knowledge and understanding:**

a. Understanding the political behavior, governance, political system and various institutions in the worlds.

b. Comparative study of different political system such as United Kingdom, United States, China, Switzerland, Brazil, Nizeriaetc.

c. Understanding the political theories.

d. Knowledge of national and international politics.

e .Understanding the processes and dynamics of Indian government andpolitics.

**2. Intellectual skills:**

 a. Searching various burning issues related to society and politics through internet, newspaper, journal and local magazine etc

 b. Logical interpretation/explanations of problems related to political science.

**3. Practical Skills:**

a. Study of local politics including caste politics, regional politics, and communal politics and its impact on national integration.

b. Study of global politics and environmental degradation.

c. Socio-economic and political impact of human rights violation issues especially vulnerable sections of the society.

d. Study of state security, international relation and peace.

 **4. Transferable Skills:**

a. Access to E library resources.

b. Use of information technology for gathering and sharing of data.

**5. Scientific knowledge and Problem analysis-**

a. Collection of various datas, conduction of field survey with an aim to solve various socio-political problems through objective methodology.

 **6. Ethics:-**

a. To aware students with knowledge about local, national and global politics

b. To provide practical knowledge about administrative affairs and bureaucratic system.

c. Basic knowledge on constitutional rights and duties.

d. To broaden understanding on existing political theories and concepts like democracy, power, authority and state etc.

**COURSE SPECIFIC OUTCOMES (BA-NON CBCS)**

**FIRST SEMESTER**

Paper 1 POLITICAL THEORY-1

* To make students understand about basic concepts and theories of politics.
* The students will be able to know the growth of political theories, different approaches to political theories.
* To analyze the role of power and ideology in understanding the political theories better.

Paper 2 POLITICS IN INDIA – I

* To make students able to understand about the constitutional developments of India.
* To describe the basic features of Indian Constitution.
* To explore the political structure of India which are enumerated in the Indian Constitution.

SECOND SEMESTER

Paper 1 POLITICAL THEORY II

* To provide an understanding of contemporary political theories.
* To analyze the ideas and practices related to the theory of Democracy.
* Clear understanding of students on discourses of development and various models associated with it.

Paper 2 POLITICS IN INDIA – II

* To study the federal structure of India explaining the centre-state Relations.
* To make students understand about multi party system in India.
* To understand the challenges like terrorism, regionalism, casteism etc on the integrity of the country.

**THIRD SEMESTER**

Paper- 1 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-I

* To describe the discipline of International Relations.
* To understand the basic concepts and approaches of International Relations.
* To analyze the impacts of various historical events such as World War I, World War II and Cold war.

Paper 2 PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION-I

* To introduce the concepts of Public Administration.
* To analyze the theories of Public Administration like scientific Management, Bureaucratic Theory etc.
* To understand the principles and structures of Organization.

**FOURTH SEMESTER**

Paper 1 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS- II

* To discuss the concepts like Foreign policy and diplomacy Conflict resolution, Non-alignment.
* To analyze the role of United Nations, its formation.
* To discuss the political economy of the world with the analysis of WTO, World Bank etc..

Paper 2 PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION-II

* To discuss the working of personnel administration and financial Administration, budgetary process.
* To understand the growing importance of Development Administration, contribution of F.W. Riggs in the Third world Countries.
* To analyze the citizen’s participation in administration process.

**FIFTH SEMESTER**

Paper 1 WESTERN POLITICAL THINKERS

* To discuss the political thoughts of ancient and medieval political thinkers.
* To discuss the political thoughts of the Contractualists such as Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau.
* To analyze the Marxian Political Thought and its relevance.

Paper 2 SELECT CONSTITUTIONS-I

* To discuss the constitution and political process of the United Kingdom.
* To discuss the constitution and political process of the United States of America.
* To make a comparative study between the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Paper 3B GENERAL SOCIOLOGY – I

* To understand the meaning, growth and methods of Sociology as a social science discipline.
* To understand the role of family, society and community and to analyze the caste, class and gender as social stratification.

Paper 4A CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL ISSUES

* To understand the importance of environmental issues and the United Nation’s initiatives to resolve those.
* To understand the concept of Terrorism with special emphasis on North-east India.
* To discuss the emerging concepts of Human Development, Human security and Gender in world politics.

Paper 5A RURAL LOCAL GOVERNANCE

* To understand the growth of Rural Local Governance from ancient to post-independent India.
* To discuss the constitutional provisions pertaining to 73rd constitutional amendments.
* To analyze the structural growth and supervision of activities of Local governance in India.

Paper 6B HUMAN RIGHTS

* To introduce the concept of Human Rights and different approaches to study human rights.
* To discuss the role of United Nations in promoting Human Rights.
* To understand the role of Non-Governmental Organizations in the protection and promotion of Human Rights.

**SIXTH SEMESTER**

Paper1 INDIAN POLITICAL THINKERS

* This course is designed to make students understand about the political thoughts of various, reformist, Nationalist, revolutionary thinkers of India such as Manu and Kautilya, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, M.N.Roy and Gandhi, Nehru, Ambedkar and Narayan etc.

Paper 2 SELECT CONSTITUTIONS-II

* To discuss the constitution and political process of the Peoples Republic of China.
* To discuss the constitution and political process of Switzerland.
* To make a comparative study between the Peoples Republic of China and Switzerland.

Paper 3D GENERAL SOCIOLOGY – II

* This course makes students understand about various processes involved in social progress such as Culture, social control, social change, and socialization etc.

Paper 4C CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

* To understand the Neo-liberal ideology in Contemporary politics.
* To examine the ideology of Feminism as a contemporary ideology.
* To discuss the impacts of religious fundamentalism and multi-culturalism in contemporary politics.

Paper 5C URBAN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

* To understand the growth of Urban Local Governance from ancient to post-independent India.
* To discuss the constitutional provisions pertaining to 74th constitutional amendments.
* To analyze the structural growth and supervision of activities of Urban governance in India.

Paper 6D HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA

* To understand Origin and Development of Human Rights in India.
* To discuss Institutional Mechanisms for Protection of Human Rights.
* To discuss the emerging issues of Human rights such as Terrorism, environmental issues and so on.
* To understand the human rights issues of various vulnerable groups of the society.

**COURSE OUTCOMES OF BA POLITICAL SCIENCE (CBCS)**

POL HC 1016 Understanding Political Theory

Course Objective: This course is divided into two sections. Section A introduces the students to the idea of political theory, its history and approaches, and an assessment of its critical and contemporary trends. Section B is designed to reconcile political theory and practice through reflections on the ideas and practices related to democracy.

POL HC 1026 Constitutional Government and Democracy in India

Course objective: This course acquaints students with the constitutional design of state structures and institutions, and their actual working overtime. The Indian Constitution accommodates conflicting impulses (of liberty and justice, territorial decentralization and a strong union, for instance) within itself. The course traces the embodiment of some of these conflicts in constitutional provisions, and shows how these have played out in political practice. It further encourages a study of state institutions in their mutual interaction, and in interaction with the larger extra-constitutional environment.

POL HC 2016 Political Theory-Concepts and Debates

Course Objective: This course is divided into two sections. Section A helps the student familiarize with the basic normative concepts of political theory. Each concept is related to a crucial political issue that requires analysis with the aid of our conceptual understanding. This exercise is designed to encourage critical and reflective analysis and interpretation ofsocial practices through the relevant conceptual toolkit. Section B introduces the students to the important debates in the subject. These debates prompt us to consider that there is no settled way of understanding concepts and that in the light of new insights and challenges, besides newer ways of perceiving and interpreting the world around us, we inaugurate new modes of political debates.

POL HC 2026 Political Process in India

Course objective: Actual politics in India diverges quite significantly from constitutional Legal rules. An understanding of the political process thus calls for a different mode of analysis - that offered by political sociology. This course maps the working of ‘modern’ institutions, premised on the existence of an individuated society, in a context marked by communitarian solidarities, and their mutual transformation thereby. It also familiarizes students with the working of the Indian state, paying attention to the contradictory dynamics of modern state power.

POL HC 3016 Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics

Course objective: This is a foundational course in comparative politics. The purpose is to familiarize students with the basic concepts and approaches to the study of comparative politics. More specifically the course will focus on examining politics in a historical framework while engaging with various themes of comparative analysis in developed and developing countries.

POL HC 3026 PERSPECTIVES ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Objective: The course provides an introduction to the discipline of public administration. This paper encompasses public administration in its historical context with an emphasis on the various classical and contemporary administrative theories. The course also explores some of the recent trends, including feminism and ecological conservation and how the call for greater democratization is restructuring public administration. The course will also attempt to provide the students a comprehensive understanding on contemporary administrative developments.

POL HC 3036 Perspectives on International Relations and World History

Course Objective: This paper seeks to equip students with the basic intellectual tools for understanding International Relations. It introduces students to some of the most important theoretical approaches for studying international relations. The course begins by historically contextualizing the evolution of the international state system before discussing the agency structure problem through the levels-of-analysis approach. After having set the parameters of the debate, students are introduced to different theories in International Relations. It provides a fairly comprehensive overview of the major political developments and events starting from the twentieth century. Students are expected to learn about the key milestones in world history and equip them with the tools to understand and analyze the same from different perspectives. A key objective of the course is to make students aware of the implicit Euro -centricism of International Relations by highlighting certain specific perspectives from the Global South.

POL HC 4016 Political Processes and Institutions in Comparative Perspective

Course objective: In this course students will be trained in the application of comparative methods to the study of politics. The course is comparative in both what we study and how we study. In the process the course aims to introduce undergraduate students to some of the range of issues, literature, and methods that cover comparative political.

POL HC 4026 PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION IN INDIA

Objective: The paper seeks to provide an introduction to the interface between public policy and administration in India. The essence of public policy lies in its effectiveness in translating the governing philosophy into programs and policies and making it a part of the community living. It deals with issues of decentralization, financial management, citizens and administration and social welfare from a non-western perspective.

POL HC 4036 Global Politics

Course objective: This course introduces students to the key debates on the meaning and nature of globalization by addressing its political, economic, social, cultural and technological dimensions. In keeping with the most important debates within then globalization discourse, it imparts an understanding of the working of the world economy, its anchors and resistances offered by global social movements while analyzing the changing nature of relationship between the state and trans-national actors and networks. The course also offers insights into key contemporary global issues such as the proliferation of nuclear weapons, ecological issues, international terrorism, and human security before concluding with a debate on the phenomenon of global governance.

POL HC 5016 Classical Political Philosophy

Course objective:This course goes back to Greek antiquity and familiarizes students with the manner in which the political questions were first posed. Machiavelli comes as an interlude inaugurating modern politics followed by Hobbes and Locke. This is a basic foundation course for students.

POL HC 5026 Indian Political Thought-I

Course objective:This course introduces the specific elements of Indian Political Thought spanning over two millennia. The basic focus of study is on individual thinkers whose ideas are however framed by specific themes. The course as a whole is meant to provide a sense of the broad streams of Indian thought while encouraging a specific knowledge of individual thinkers and texts. Selected extracts from some original texts are also given to discuss in class. The list of additional readings is meant for teachers as well as the more interested students.

POL HC 6016 Modern Political Philosophy

Course objective**:** Philosophy and politics are closely intertwined. We explore this convergence by identifying four main tendencies here. Students will be exposed to the manner in which the questions of politics have been posed in terms that have implications for larger questions of thought and existence.

POL HC 6026 Indian Political Thought-II

Course objective:Based on the study of individual thinkers, the course introduces a wide span of thinkers and themes that defines the modernity of Indian political thought. The objective is to study general themes that have been produced by thinkers from varied social and temporal contexts. Selected extracts from original texts are also given to discuss in the class. The list of additional readings is meant for teachers as well as the more interested students.

**B) Generic Elective (Interdisciplinary): Any 4**

POL HE 1016 POLITICS IN NORTH-EAST INDIA

Course Objective: The aim of this course is to explore the political history of Assam and North-East India. It discusses the colonial legacies of political system in the region. The course also looks into the recent political developments in the region specifically in Assam.

POL HE 2026 LOCAL GOVERNANCE (RURAL AND URBAN)

Course objective: This course tries to make students aware about the democratic decentralization process of India. It traces the development of Local and urban local governance from ancient to post-independent India. The course aims to discuss the provisions of 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments of the Indian constitution. After studying this paper students will be able to understand the structure and functions of the rural and urban governing bodies and their role in rural development.

POL HE 2016 Feminism: Theory and Practice

Course Objective:The aim of the course is to explain contemporary debates on feminism and the history of feminist struggles. The course begins with a discussion on construction of gender and an understanding of complexity of patriarchy and goes on to analyze theoretical debates within feminism. Part II of the paper covers history of feminism in the west, socialist societies and in anti-colonial struggles. Part III focuses a gendered analysis of Indian society, economy and polity with a view to understanding the structures of gender inequalities. And the last section aims to understand the issues with which contemporary Indian women’s movements are engaged with.

POL HE 3016 Gandhi and the Contemporary World

Course objective:Locating Gandhi in a global frame, the course seeks to elaborate Gandhian thought and examine its practical implications. It will introduce students to key instances of Gandhi’s continuing influence right up to the contemporary period and enable them to critically evaluate his legacy.

POL HE 4016 Understanding Ambedkar

Course objective:This course is broadly intended to introduce Ambedkar’s ideas and their relevance in contemporary India, by looking beyond caste. Ambedkar’s philosophical contributions towards Indian economy and class question, sociological interpretations on religion, gender, caste and cultural issues; ideas on politics such as concepts of nation, state, democracy, law and constitutionalism are to be pedagogically interrogated and interpreted. This will help students to critically engage themselves with the existing social concerns, state and economic structures and other institutional mechanisms. This also will facilitate them to strengthen their creative thinking with a collective approach to understand ongoing social, political, cultural and economic phenomena of the society.

POL HE 1026 GOVERNANCE: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Objectives:This paper deals with concepts and different dimensions of governance highlighting the major debates in the contemporary times. There is a need to understand the importance of the concept of governance in the context of a globalising world, environment, administration, development. The essence of governance is explored through the various good governance initiatives introduced in India.

POL HE 4026 Politics of Globalization

Course objective:The objective of this generic elective paper is to make students from diverse background understand the process of globalization from a political perspective. This paper will create a broad understanding of the issues and processes globalization based on critical analysis of the various anchors and dimensions of globalization.

POL HE 3026 UNITED NATIONS AND GLOBAL CONFLICTS

Course Objective:This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the most important multilateral political organization in international relations. It provides a detailed account of the organizational structure and the political processes of the UN, and how it has evolved since 1945, especially in terms of dealing with the major global conflicts. The course imparts a critical understanding of the UN’s performance until now and the imperatives as well as processes of reforming the organization in the context of the contemporary global system.

**(C) DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE (Any Two)**

POL HD 5016 HUMAN RIGHTS

The course objective is to introduce the concept of Human Rights and different approaches to study human rights. It aims to discuss the role of United Nations in promoting Human Rights. The course tries to understand the role of Non-Governmental Organizations in the protection and promotion of Human Rights.

POL HD 6046 Social Movements in North-east India

Course Objective: The course introduces the meaning and nature of Social movements in India. It analyzes the identity movements and the movements for autonomy which are undergoing in the region. The course also emphasizes on the newly emerging environmental, civil and women movements in the region.

POL HD 5046 Select Constitutions

Course Objective: The course introduces the constitutional and political systems of four countries. Students will have a stronger and more informed perspective on approaches to studying the constitutional and political systems of these countries in a comparative manner.

POL HD 5026 Public Policy in India

Course Objective:This course provides a theoretical and practical understanding of the concepts and methods that can be employed in the analysis of public policy. It uses the methods of political economy to understand policy as well as understand politics as it is shaped by economic changes. The course will be useful for students who seek an integrative link to their understanding of political science, economic theory and the practical world of development and social change.

POL HD 5036 Understanding Global Politics

Course Objectives:This course aims to provide students a basic yet interesting and insightful way of knowing and thinking about the world around them. It is centered on three sets of basic questions starting with what makes the world what it is by instructing students how they can conceptualize the world and their place within it. The second module focuses on the basic fault lines that drives the world apart and the last one is designed to help students explore how and why they need to think about the ‘world' as a whole from alternate vantage points.

POL HD 6016 India’s Foreign Policy in a globalizing world

Course objective:This course’s objective is to teach students the domestic sources and the structural constraints on the genesis, evolution and practice of India’s foreign policy. The endeavour is to highlight integral linkages between the ‘domestic’ and the ‘international’ aspects of India’s foreign policy by stressing on the shifts in its domestic identity and the corresponding changes at the international level. Students will be instructed on India’s shifting identity as a postcolonial state to the contemporary dynamics of India attempting to carve its identity as an ‘aspiring power’. India’s evolving relations with the superpowers during the Cold War and after, bargaining strategy and positioning in international climate change negotiations, international economic governance, international terrorism and the United Nations facilitate an understanding of the changing positions and development of India’s role as a global player since independence.

POL HD 6036 Women, Power and Politics

Course objective: This course opens up the question of women’s agency, taking it beyond ‘women’s empowerment’ and focusing on women as radical social agents. It attempts to question the complicity of social structures and relations in gender inequality. This is extended to cover new forms of precarious work and labour under the new economy. Special attention will be paid to feminism as an approach and outlook. The course is divided into broad units, each of which is divided into three sub-units.

POL HD 6026 Understanding South Asia

Course Objective: The course introduces the historical legacies and geopolitics of South Asia as a region. It imparts an understanding of political regime types as well as the socioeconomic issues of the region in a comparative framework. The course also apprises students of the common challenges and the strategies deployed to deal with them by countries in South Asia.

**(D) ABILITY ENHANCEMENT- (SKILL BASED)**

POL AE 3014 PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES

Course Objective: The course attempts to make the students familiar with legislative practices in India with an orientation to equip them with the adequate skills of participation in deliberative processes and democratic decision making. The introductory unit of the course aims to provide basic understanding on the constitutional provisions related to the process of legislations as well as the kinds of bills. The second unit of this course seeks to enhance proper understanding related to the procedures, practices related to the passage of a bill from drafting to that of the passing of the Bill. Third unit is about different Committees in the House, and the Fourth unit is on hours and motions in the House.

POL AE 3024 YOUTH AND NATION-BUILDING

Course objectives: The aim of this course is to highlight the importance of NCC and NSS. The students will be able to get involved with the NCC and the NSS and learn about its activities and undertake tasks under its aegis. The students will also be able to learn about the basics of disaster preparedness and its management.