

# PSC 1101 - Political Science: An Introduction

## Introduction

This course is designed to introduce first year undergraduate students to the essential aspects, concerns and themes of political science inquiry. As an introductory course, it welcomes even students who have not offered political science for the GCE advanced Level.

## Course Objectives

The objective of this is to provide to students a basic understanding of the nature and scope of the discipline of Political Science by enabling them to:

- i. Gain knowledge of the nature and scope of political science as a social science discipline, and different approaches to the study of politics,
- ii. Familiarize themselves with key ideas and concepts of political science inquiry, and
- iii. Appreciate the utility of political science concepts and approaches in understanding political events and processes in their own environment.

## Expected Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- i. Recognize the nature of the discipline of political science and distinguish different approaches to the study of politics,
- ii. Relate to political science as a social science discipline while identifying its distinctive as well as its multi- disciplinary features,
- iii. Apply the basic ideas of political science in understanding everyday political experiences.

## Course Outline

1. What is politics? Politics and power, interests, conflict as well politics in everyday life.
2. Studying politics and political science.
3. A brief history of the discipline of political science, subject-matter of political science and key approaches to the study of politics.
4. Key categories of politics and political analysis at macro-level: the state, nation, class, ethnicity, gender, citizenship.

- 5 The relationship between the state, government and society (distinction between the state and government, citizenship, rights and duties, consent, law, obedience and resistance etc.).
- 6 Political institutions: Legislature, the cabinet, the judiciary, bureaucracy, political parties etc.
  7. Politics at non-state level: civil society and social movements in politics.
  8. Role of ideologies in politics: Liberalism, socialism, nationalism, and fascism.
  9. What is Political Philosophy? Key questions explored in political philosophy.

## Assessment

Method	Weightage
Classroom Test	20%
Take-home Assignment	20%
End of Semester Examination	60%
Total	100%

## Recommended Reading

Appadurai, A. *The Substance of Politics*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Carnoy, M. 1984, *The State and Political Theory*, Princeton, N.J. Princeton University Press.

Marsh, David and Gerry Stoker (Eds.), 2002, *Theory and Methods in Political Science*, London: Palgrave MacMillan