

Research Specific Elective Courses

Programme: M. A Political Science

Course Code: POL-600

Title of the Course: **Concepts and Theoretical Approaches in Political Science**

Number of Credits: 4

Effective from Academic Year: 2023-2024

<u>Prerequisites for the Course</u>	Students should have studied at undergraduate level in social sciences and any other discipline having an interest in the subject. It is assumed that students have a basic knowledge of what is research and how socio-economic and political issues are understood through exploration and research	
<u>Objectives</u>	This paper intended to prepare the students to write a dissertation in the final year of M.A by first introducing them to the foundations of Political Science research.	
<u>Contents</u>	<p>Unit 1: Foundations of Research</p> <p>a) What is Research? Pure and Applied</p> <p>b) Nature of Social Science Research: Forms of knowledge, laws, Explanation and interpretations in study of social world</p> <p>c) Problem of Objectivity in Social Research</p> <p>Unit 2: Positivist Approaches</p> <p>a) Institutional Analysis</p> <p>b) Behaviouralism</p> <p>c) Rational-Choice Theory</p> <p>Unit 3: Post- Positivist Approaches</p> <p>a) Feminist Research Approach</p> <p>b) Marxist Approach</p> <p>c) Postmodern Approach</p> <p>Unit 4: State of Political Science Research</p> <p>a) Big Issues in Political Science Research (Global Political Economy, New Public Management, Good Governance, Decline and Resurgence of Political Theory)</p>	<p>No. of Hours</p> <p>12 hours</p> <p>12 hours</p> <p>12 hours</p> <p>12 hours</p>

	<p>b) Research in the Subfield of Political Science</p> <p>Unit 5: Research Ethics</p> <p>a) The meaning of Research Ethics</p> <p>b) Research with Human Subjects</p> <p>c) Applying Ethics in Research Processes</p>	12 hours
<u>Pedagogy</u>	Lectures, tutorials, assignments based on self-study, field studies (dialogic and participatory collective learning and teaching)	
<u>References/Readings</u>	<p>Single Author Books</p> <p>Freire, Paulo (1996). <i>Pedagogy of the Oppressed</i>, New Delhi: Penguin Books</p> <p>Krishnaswamy, O.R. (2010). <i>Methodology of Research in Social Sciences</i>, New Delhi: Himalaya Publishing House</p> <p>Mahajan, Gurpreet (1992). <i>Explanation and understanding in the human science</i>, New Delhi: Oxford University Press</p> <p>McNabb, David (2004). <i>Research Methods for Political Science</i>, New Delhi: Prentice Hall</p> <p>Rai Praveen & Kumar Sanjay (2013). <i>Measuring Voting Behaviour in India</i>, New Delhi: Sage Publication</p> <p>Two or More Authors</p> <p>Guru, Gopal and SarukkaiSundar (2018), <i>The Cracked Mirror: An Indian debate on experience and theory</i>, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Wilkinson, T.S. and Bhandarkar, P.L. (1994). <i>Methodology and Techniques of Social Research</i>, Delhi: Himalaya Publishing House</p>	
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will be able to understand the process of social science research with the knowledge of basic tools and techniques. 2. Students will be able to apply research methods in their future pursuit of research. 3. Students will be able to explore the data related to theoretical research. 4. Students will be able to understand the importance of theories in social research. 	