

**CENTRE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES, SSS, JNU**

**MA COMPUSLORY COURSE**

**POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: KEY CONCEPTS II**

**PO415N**

**Credits:** 4

**Course Schedule:** Three lectures a week, One and half hours tutorial in a week

**Mode of evaluation:** Term paper (25%), Mid-Semester Exam (25%), End-Semester Exam (50%)

**INTRODUCTION**

Even when political thinkers argue over the design of political institutions, they often agree on the benchmarks used to evaluate these institutions. If in earlier times, virtue was the touchstone for the rightly organized political community, in more recent times, alternative political institutions are judged on their ability to deliver justice and equality, or liberty and rights. There is thus a body of concepts central to our discipline, and these concepts have been widely used to explore, evaluate and justify public life and institutions. This course will examine some of these foundational normative political concepts, their place and meaning in different political traditions. Familiarity with debates around these concepts will enable students to examine the claim of modern democracies to be better forms of government. Students will also be able to understand how, in a changing historical context, the benchmarks of order and virtue were replaced by the criteria of rights and liberty in the assessment of a political system.

**1. Justice**

Selected Readings:

John Rawls: Justice as Fairness – A Restatement, pp. 39-79.

Arneson, R.J: 'Justice after Rawls' in The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory (You can also look at sections on justice in compendiums like the Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy, or readers in political theory like A. Shorten, Contemporary Political Theory)

Nozick, R: Anarchy, State and Utopia, pp. 149-182.

Sandel, M.J: Justice – What's the Right Thing to Do? (Selections)

John Rawls: Political Liberalism, Lecture IV and Lecture VIII.

Thomas Pogge: 'An Egalitarian Law of Peoples'.

M. Nussbaum: Frontiers of Justice, pp. 96-154.

Minnow Martha, "Justice Engendered", Harvard Law Review, 101 (1987), 10-95.

John Rawls: A Theory of Justice, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1971, pp. 3-53 (Justice as Fairness), and pp. 258-332 (Distributive Shares).

Sandel M.J: Justice: A Reader, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2007.

## **2.Rights**

Selected Readings:

Feinberg J: "The Nature and Value of Rights", in J. Feinberg, Rights, Justice and the Bounds of Liberty, Princeton University Press, 1980.

Hart H.L.A., "Are there any natural rights?" in Jeremy Waldron, Theories of Rights, Oxford University Press, 1984.

Hart H.L.A., "Between Utility and Rights", in A. Ryan, ed., The Idea of Freedom, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1987.

Raz J., The Morality of Freedom, Clarendon, Oxford, 1986.

Shklar J., 'The Liberalism of Fear' in N. Rosenblum, Liberalism and the Moral Life, Harvard University Press, 1989.

## **3.Liberty**

Selected Readings:

Berlin, I: 'Two Concepts of Liberty'

Constant, B: 'The liberty of the ancients compared with that of the moderns'

Arendt, H: 'What is Freedom?' in Between Past and Future

Coole, D: 'Constructing and Deconstructing Liberty: A Feminist and Poststructuralist Analysis'

Hirschmann, N.J: 'Toward a feminist theory of freedom'

Taylor, C: 'What is wrong with negative liberty?'

Pettit, P: 'The Republican Ideal of Freedom'

Kaviraj, S: 'Ideas of Freedom in Modern India'

Berlin Isaiah: Four Essays on Liberty, Oxford University Press, 2002.

Skinner Q: Liberty before Liberalism, Cambridge, 1998.

#### **4. Equality**

##### Selected Readings:

Dworkin Ronald, "Four Essays on Equality", including 'What is Equality? Part I: Equality of Welfare', *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, summer 10/3, 1981 'What is Equality? Part II: Equality of Resources', *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, falls, 10/4, 1981.

Parekh Bhikhu, "Equality in a Multicultural Society", in *Rethinking Multiculturalism*, New York, Palgrave, 2000, pp 239-263.

Phillips Anne, *Which Equalities Matter*, Polity, 1999.

Sen Amartya, "Equality of What?" in S.M.McMurrin, ed., *The Tanner Lectures on Human Values*, Cambridge University Press, 1980, pp 195-220.

Walzer Michael, "Complex Equality", in *Spheres of Justice: A Defence of Pluralism and Equality*, Martin Robertson, 1983, pp 3-30.

Williams Bernard, "The Idea of Equality", in P.Laslett and W.G.Runciman, eds., *Philosophy, Politics and Society*, Blackwell, 1979, pp 110-131.

#### **5. Democracy**

##### Selected Readings:

Cohen Joshua, "Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy" in Alan Hamlin and Philip Pettit eds., *The Good Polity*, Blackwell, Oxford, 1989, pp. 17-34.

Gutmann Amy, *Why Deliberative Democracy*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 2004.

Habermas J., *Between Facts and Norms*, MIT Press, 1996.

Held David, *Models of Democracy*, 3rd ed., Polity, London, 2006.

Keenan A., *Introduction, Democracy in Question*, 2003.

#### **6. Virtue**

##### Selected Readings

M. Nussbaum: 'Virtue Ethics – A Misleading Category'

A. MacIntyre: *After Virtue*, chapters 15 & 16.

John Horton & S. Mendus: Critical Perspectives on the work of Alasdair MacIntyre.

Baier. A., 'What do Women want in a Moral Theory?' in S. Darwall, ed., Virtue Ethics, 2003.

Galston W., 'Introduction' in J.W. Chapman & W. Galston, ed. Virtue, Nomos 34, 1992, pp. 114.

Nussbaum Martha, The Fragility of Goodness, (Selections), Cambridge University Press, 2 nd ed., 2001.

M. Nussbaum, 'Aristotelian Social Democracy' in R. Douglass et. al., eds., Liberalism and the Good, pp. 203-52.

**Supplementary Readings:**

Adams R.M., A Theory of Virtue, Oxford University Press, New York, 2006.

Annas J., The Morality of Happiness, Oxford University Press, New York, 1993.

Boucher D. & P. Kelly, The Social Contract from Hobbes to Rawls, Routledge, London, 1994.

Darwall S., ed., Virtue Ethics, Blackwell, Oxford, 2003.

Dworkin R., Taking Rights Seriously, Duckworth, London, 1977.

Haksar V., Rights, Communities and Disobedience: Liberalism and Gandhi, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2001.

Kymlicka W., Contemporary Political Philosophy, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2002.

Macleod C., Liberalism, Justice and Markets: A Critique of Liberal Equality, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1998.

Pettit P., "The Domination Complaint" in S. Macedo & M. Williams, Domination and Exclusion, NYU, 2005.

Rhode D.L., Gender and Rights, Ashgate, 2005.

Sandel M. J., Liberalism and the Limits of Justice, 1998.

Sandel M.J., Liberalism and its Critics, Blackwell, Oxford, 1984.