



Sub-Committee for Curriculum Development

Political Science

Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course: Political Science and Public Policy (Major/Minor)

Introduction:

Political Science and Public Policy is one of the most popular major/minor courses offered at SSLA. Students opting for a major in this subject study 10 papers whereas students opting for a minor study only the first six of these.

The 10 papers are as follows:

1. Introduction to Political Science
2. Indian Political Thought
3. Western Political Thought
4. Comparative Politics
5. Ideology and Politics
6. Catch 22 in Politics
7. Political Processes and Dynamics of State Politics in India
8. Foundations of Public Administration
9. India's Political Economy and Development
10. Public Policy and Governance in India

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Political Science Major/Minor Paper 1- Introduction to Political Science

(UG/PG): UG

Number of Credits: 4

Level: 2

Course Description:

Since man is, without doubt, a political animal, it becomes imperative to have a foundational understanding of contemporary politics in order to succeed in any field of work, and in any part of the world. The aim of this course is thus to describe the study of political science and highlight its scope. It will also discuss normative concepts such as equality, democracy, rights, obligations, and so forth. This course seeks to enable students as global citizens and as being able to make a critical estimation of any policy.

The study of this course will entail topics such as discussions about what political science is, and providing students with knowledge about basic concepts such as the state, sovereignty, liberty, equality, political obligation, power, legitimacy, national interest, civil society, and civil disobedience.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Political Science Major/Minor Paper 2- Indian Political Thought

(UG/PG): UG

Number of Credits: 4

Level: 3

Course Description:

This paper will trace Political Philosophy of Indian Political Thinkers from the ancient period, up to the twentieth century.

The course is designed to help the students to discover the traditional political philosophy that forms the basis of the Indian Constitution, as well as its various domestic and foreign policies. The course will also enable the students to relate to and gain a deeper insight into the Indian polity, in the context of its political philosophy.

The course delves into topics such as modern political thought, the methods and framework related to modern Indian political thought, the Derivative and Nativist schools of thought, and case studies regarding the same. It also discusses caste and nationalism in modern India, along with the study of women in modern India, the position of Islam in the modern context, and the idea of Gandhi as a political theorist.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Political Science Major/Minor Paper 3- Western Political Thought

(UG/PG): UG

Number of Credits: 4

Level: 3

Course Description:

This course traces the political philosophy of Western political thinkers from the ancient period, through the age of enlightenment to the twentieth century. It will help the students to discover the political philosophy that forms the basis of politics in the western hemisphere.

It also aims to help them interpret the political philosophies of these philosophers in a historical context, as well as relate them to contemporary politics.

The course covers major political thinkers such as Aristotle and Plato from the ancient era, Enlightenment era thinkers such as Hobbes, Rousseau, Locke, and Machiavelli, and contemporary thinkers such as John Rawls and Robert Nozick.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Political Science Major/Minor Paper 4- Comparative Politics

(UG/PG): UG

Number of Credits: 4

Level: 4

Course Description:

In an age marked with intolerance, this course will help students, who are members of the global village, to comprehend the behaviour of the nations and leaders that charter the course of world politics.

The aim of this paper is to make the students analyse and appraise the various polities that exist in the contemporary world order, along with examining how they function, and comparing and contrasting the pros and cons of each polity.

This course will explain to students topics such as the development of comparative politics as a field of study, and the various forms of contemporary government such as absolute and constitutional monarchies, parliamentary, presidential and federal democracies, and the theocratic and military states that are in existence.

Name of the Institute: SSLA

Course Name: Political Science Major/Minor Paper 5- Ideology and Politics

(UG/PG): UG

Number of Credits: 4

Level: 4

Course Description:

Since ideology has dominated the socio-political-economic world since the Age of Enlightenment and plays a prominent role in the way the world functions even today, it is the purpose of this paper to highlight certain contemporary political ideologies and their realization /influence/relation/reflection in the political process of the modern polity.

This paper will also compare and contrast the different historical and political contexts that lead to the emergence of the respective ideologies, and study their relevance to modern polity.

This paper will cover a wide range of topics such as the meaning of ideology, the period of enlightenment, the rise of communism, socialism and democratic socialism, the idea of anarchism, and fascism. It will also explore the ideas of Marxism, environmentalism, and feminism, along with postmodernism and its implications.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Political Science Major/Minor Paper 6- Catch 22 in Politics

(UG/PG): UG

Number of Credits: 4

Level: 4

Course Description:

The term 'Catch 22' was coined by Joseph Heller in his novel of the same name in 1961. He used the term to describe situations which are difficult to resolve or escape, as the options are mutually conflicting, resulting in situations where people are trapped due to contradictory rules and values. Modern nation-states are supposed to be welfare states. However, we live in an age where politics appears to be devoid of ethics, where power-politics is played out in the name of humanitarian interventions, and where we are forced to question every act of the government and every judgment of the courts.

This paper will look into issues which make us, as a civil society, feel trapped because of contradictory rules and interests. Through current events, it will analyse and appraise various aspects of politics, and compare and contrast policies and decisions of various governments across the globe, in terms of parameters like ethics, morality, social justice, humanitarian interests, and so on.

It will cover a range of topics, such as the relationship between ethics and politics, social exclusion and politics, human rights and politics, social justice and jurisprudence, morality and violence, and feminist interpretation of politics, amongst others.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Political Science Major Paper 7- Political Process and Dynamics of State Politics in India

(UG/PG): UG

Number of Credits: 4

Level: 4

Course Description:

Unlike the politics of any other nation-state in the world, the dynamics of Indian politics is as varied as the land. The different ethnic, communal, regional, and linguistic interests give rise to different political parties fighting for their vested interests in the sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic, that India is.

The purpose of this paper is to help the students appraise the rationale and efficacy of the linguistic states in India, and examine the contemporary political dynamics of region and language vis a vis the development of the Indian polity. They will also be taught to analyse the challenges and issues in the context of the globalized economic system. The aim of this paper is to enable students to distinguish the intricacies, as well as infer the roots of the current issues and stresses in the regionalized political process after 1990s. They will also identify the challenges before India as a nation-state, and its political economy in the globalized world.

The paper will cover topics such as an overview of the formation of linguistic states in post-independence India, the Kashmir Conflict, the formation of Maharashtra, the regionalisation of politics, the effect of the Mandal Commission, and the peasant movements across the country.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Political Science Major Paper 8- Foundations of Public Administration

(UG/PG): UG

Number of Credits: 4

Level: 2

Course Description:

It is essential for citizens of India, and future policy formulators and practitioners, to understand how the Indian polity is administered. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to explain the general mechanism of public administration, and to discuss public administration through case studies on contemporary policy concerns.

This paper will give students an introduction to public administration, and also cover topics such as linking development and public administration, principles and theories of organisation, financial administration, and public administration in India.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Political Science Major Paper 9- India's Political Economy and Development
(UG/PG): UG

Number of Credits: 4

Level: 4

Course Description:

India's political economy has witnessed major upheavals and transformations from the pattern in which it was conceived by the founding fathers, till the present day. This paper will trace the development of India's political economy from its inception with independent India, till the current scenario.

The aim of this paper is to outline the political economy of India, with a focus on the linkages between the actors, the institutional structures, and the developmental issues that arise out of its workings. Its objective is to critically appraise the political and economic behavior of the Indian State in context of the different actors, the decisions they make, and how they influence the outcomes.

Students will study the character and nature of the Indian State, the social and economic determinants of the Indian democracy, and the current issues in India's political economy.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Political Science Major Paper 10- Public Policy and Governance in India

(UG/PG): UG

Number of Credits: 4

Level: 4

Course Description:

This paper will delve into policy formulations under different regimes in India, and their relation to governance. The students will learn to explain the interpenetration of the different ideological and political groups, towards the formation of a common stream of policies and perspectives, on issues of social and national importance. They will also be taught to relate the dynamic context of policy making in the globalized world, for the purpose of better governance in the light of the changing nature of the nation.

This paper will explain the meaning of governance, and the nature of governance in India. It will explain the process of policy formation in relation to public support, and the shift from traditional party rule to governance through policy. It will also discuss the interface between ideologies, parties, and public policy-making in India, alongside case studies related to public policy in India.