Department of Political Science
The University of Burdwan

Syllabus for the M.A. Degree in Political Science

(To be effective from the academic session 2014 – 2016)

Principles / Guidelines/ Rules
1 Lecture of 1hour per week X 16 (14 – 16) = 1Credit
1 Lecture of 1hour = 2 Tutorial / Remedial Coaching
Core Paper 64 – 72 credit minimum
Credit requirement for a PG Programme: 82 – 96 Crdits
Each course has a nomenclature and an alpha-numeric code
Each student will be allowed to take any one major elective course in Semester – III and in Semester – IV among three options.
Each student will be allowed to take any one minor elective course in Semester – III and in Semester – IV among four options.
Students of other departments, while opting for minor elective course in Political Science, will have to get the approval of the Head of the Department.

Subject	**Level**	**Course No.**	**Course Type**	**Course Code**	**Title of the Course**	**Credit L+T**
Political Science	**MA Semester - I**	**101**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL101**	**Indian Political Thought**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester**	**102**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL102**	**Liberal and Post Liberal Political Theory**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - I**	**103**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL103**	**Comparative Politics: Principles and Approaches**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - I**	**104**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL104**	**Politics in South Asia**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - II**	**201**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL201**	**Modern Western Political Thought**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - II**	**202**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL202**	**Marxist Political Theory**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - II**	**203**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL203**	**State Formation and Political Regime**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - II**	**204**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL204**	**Politics of India since Independence**	**4+1**

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Political Science	**MA Semester - III**	**301**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL301**	**Theories of Public Administration**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - III**	**302**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL302**	**Conceptual issues in Political Sociology**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - III**	**303**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL303**	**Theories of International Relations**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - III**	**304**	**Major Elective**	**MAPOL304**	**Issues of Citizen-centric Administration in India**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - III**	**305**	**Major Elective**	**MAPOL305**	**Political Sociology of the States in India**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - III**	**306**	**Major Elective**	**MAPOL306**	**Indian Foreign Policy**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester**	**307**	**Minor Elective**	**MAPOL307**	**Issues in Contemporary Political Theory**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - III**	**308**	**Minor Elective**	**MAPOL308**	**Public Policy Studies**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - III**	**309**	**Minor Elective**	**MAPOL309**	**Politics of Human Rights**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - III**	**310**	**Minor Elective**	**MAPOL310**	**Strategic Studies in International Relations**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - IV**	**401**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL401**	**Local Government in India**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - IV**	**402**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL402**	**Post Cold War International Relations**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester**	**403**	**Core Paper**	**MAPOL403**	Local Government in West Bengal	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - IV**	**404**	**Major Elective**	**MAPOL404**	**Project, Presentation and**	**4+1**

					Participation	
Political Science	**MA Semester - IV**	**405**	**Major Elective**	**MAPOL405**	**Social and Political Movements in India**	
Political Science	**MA Semester - IV**	**406**	**Major Elective**	**MAPOL406**	**International Law**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester**	**407**	**Minor Elective**	**MAPOL407**	**Post Modernism in Social Sciences**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - IV**	**408**	**Minor Elective**	**MAPOL408**	**Poverty Alleviation and Social Inclusion in India: Select Programmes**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - IV**	**409**	**Minor Elective**	**MAPOL409**	**Human Rights and Decentralization in India**	**4+1**
Political Science	**MA Semester - IV**	**410**	**Minor Elective**	**MAPOL410**	**Geopolitics**	**4+1**

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M.A. (Political Science) Syllabus

First Semester

MAPOL101

Indian Political Thought

[Core Paper]

1. Kautilya: *Dandaniti*---the *Saptanga* theory
2. Political Thought of Mediaeval India: Theory of sovereign power and kingship; state and administration
3. Rammohun Roy: Liberal outlook
4. Swami Vivekananda: man-making; nation-building and socialism
5. Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi: critique of western civilization and the state
6. Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose: democracy and socialism
7. Syed Ahmed Khan: nationalism
8. B.R.Ambedkar: alternative nationhood

MAPOL102

Liberal and Post Liberal Political Theory

[Core Paper]

1. The Enlightenment, modernity and liberalism: different intellectual traditions
2. L.T.Hobhouse: modern liberalism
3. Hannah Arendt: totalitarianism
4. Concept of liberty and Minimalist state: Hayek and Nozick
5. Theory of Justice: Rawls and Sen
6. Communitarianism: basic tenets; concept of civic republicanism
7. Multiculturalism: basic tenets; multiculturalism in the non-western world
8. Post-Colonialism and Orientalism: an overview

MAPOL103

Comparative Politics: Principles and Approaches

[Core Paper]

1. Comparative politics: meaning ,nature , evolution and utility
2. Institutional and Neo-institutional
3. Political systems
4. Structural-functional
5. Political Development and Modernization
6. Parties and Party Systems
7. Pressure Groups
8. Political Culture

MAPOL104

Politics in South Asia

[Core Paper]

1. The concept of South Asia as a region
2. Problems of state-formation and nation-building in South Asia
3. Problems of ethnicity, religion and language in South Asia: Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan
4. Democratization in South Asia
5. The Role of military in South Asian politics: Pakistan and Bangladesh
6. Federalism: Pakistan and Sri Lanka
7. Regional integration in South Asia: SAARC

MAPOL201

Modern Western Political Thought

[Core Paper]

1. Machiavelli: theory of human nature and power
2. Hobbes: Science of politics and the reason of the state

3. Locke: liberalism, state and civil society.
4. Rousseau: Critique of Enlightenment; General Will
5. Kant: autonomy and rights
6. Hegel: civil society and the state;
7. Nietzsche: notion of overman
8. J.S Mill: modification of classical liberalism; the state and representative government

MAPOL202

Marxist Political Theory

[Core Paper]

1. Classical, Western and Analytical Marxism: major traits
2. State (Marx and Lenin)
3. Imperialism and Revolution (Marx, Lenin, Luxemburg, Trotsky and Mao)
4. National question (Stalin)
5. Totality: Lukacs
6. Civil Society and Hegemony: Gramsci
7. Structuralism: Althusser
8. The Frankfurt School: Critical and Neo-Critical Theory

MAPOL203

State Formation and Political Regime

[Core Paper]

1. Absolutist state: its features functions and decline; contending debates
2. Rise of the nation-state in the West
3. State and the nation state : various forms of the nation-state; functions of the nation-state; crises

4. Max Weber's theory of the nation-state; nation and the states; types of legitimacy/ authority; bureaucracy; democracy and bureaucracy; violence
5. Three-dimensional state in the Third World: definition; debates; forms and functions; evaluation
6. Post-Soviet States: an overview
7. Globalization and the nation-state: various approaches; post-classical nation-states

MAPOL204

Politics of India since Independence

[Core Paper]

1. Changing state-society interface: an overview
2. Communalism and the minorities: scope and limits of accommodation
3. Politics of coalition government; problems of defection
4. Federalism and the states' rights
5. Relation between Political Parties and Civil Society
6. Politics of environment and the concept of alternative development
7. National integration: problems and prospects
8. Recent stresses and strains in democratic governance

MAPOL301

Theories of Public Administration

[Core Paper]

1. Public Administration – Stages of growth; Identity crisis
2. Weberian ideas of bureaucracy and post-Weberian development
3. Public Choice: an overview
4. New Public Management paradigm
5. Entrepreneurial Government
6. Theories of governance-good governance, corporate governance
7. E-Governance: Concept, evolution, techniques and implications

MAPOL302

Conceptual issues in Political Sociology

[Core Paper]

1. Elitism: definition; rise; schools of elitism; elite perspective on the state
2. Pluralism: political pluralism; pluralist perspective on the state; Neo-Pluralism Basic Traits
3. Structuration: Giddens and Mouzelis
4. Concept and issues in Post-industrial society
5. Cultural bases of politics: From modernism to post-modernism
6. Globalization: Political, social and cultural impact
7. Media and politics
8. Gender and politics

MAPOL303

Theories of International Relations

[Core Paper]

1. The Rise and Fall of Inter-Paradigm Debate
2. Political Realism and Neo-Realism
3. English School
4. Critical Theory
5. Constructivist Theory
6. Feminism and International Relations Theory
7. Political Economy as an approach to the study of International Relations
8. Globalization and International Theories Today

MAPOL304

Issues of Citizen-centric Administration in India

[Major Elective]

1. New orientations in Public Administration- people's participation
2. Service delivery: Public- Private Partnership; Contracting out of public services: the Indian experience.
3. Transparency- Right to Information; Citizen's Charter
4. Public Accountability- Concept; Methods of enforcing public accountability; Parliamentary procedures and Social Audit
5. Vigilance Commission; CBI; Lokpal and Lokayukta
6. Poverty Alleviation Policies: an overview
7. Green Governance

MAPOL305

Political Sociology of the States in India

[Major Elective]

1. Contending Approaches**:**
   a. Liberal democratic;
   b. Neo-institutional;
   c. Postcolonial
   d. Neo-Marxist
2. Changing paradigms of understanding state politics in India
3. Tamil ethno-nationalism
4. Sikh ethno-religious nationalism
5. Caste, community and politics in Kerala
6. Tribal ethnicity and identity politics in India's Northeast

MAPOL306

Indian Foreign Policy

[Major Elective]

1. Determinants of India's Foreign Policy: Domestic and International
2. India's National Security Environment --- India's Nuclear Policy
3. Sino-Indian Relations
4. Indo—US Relations
5. Indo – Pak Relations
6. India – Bangladesh Relations
7. India's Foreign Relations with the Himalayan States: Nepal and Bhutan
8. India's Economic Diplomacy

MAPOL307

Issues in Contemporary Political Theory

[Minor Elective]

1. Karl Popper: the idea of open society; critique of historicism; falsification.
2. Conservatism and Neo- Conservatism: Edmund Burke and Michael Oakeshott
3. Feminism: various schools and issues (with special reference to Betty Friedan, Kate Millett, Juliet Mitchell, Martha Nassbaum)
4. Environmentalism in recent times: liberal and Marxist debates
5. On ideology: Gramsci and Althusser
6. Marxism in recent times: Poulantzas: structuralist view of the state; Marxism, culture and psychoanalysis: Adorno, Benjamin, Marcuse and Fromm.

MAPOL308

Public Policy Studies

[Minor Elective]

Understanding Public Policy: Conceptual Explorations

1. Elements of Policy Making systems; Actors of public policy making;
2. Historical and structural contexts of public policy
3. Constraints of Public Policy- economic, political , socio-cultural
4. Birth of policy sciences; public and globalization

Public Policy in Practice: The Indian Experiences

5. Public health
6. Education
7. Environment

MAPOL309
Politics of Human Rights
[Minor Elective]

1. Definition and Scope of the Study---contending issues
2. A brief history of human rights
3. Paradigmatic shift from the UDHR to TMFHR
4. Theoretical Perspectives:

a. Universalism vs cultural relativism;
b. Individualism vs collectivism;

5. The State vs Human Rights---revision of perspective

MAPOL310

Strategic Studies in International Relations

[Minor Elective]

1. Strategic Theories:
   a) Kautilya: Concept of diplomacy and its various kinds-qualities of Ideal foreign policy –strategies of world conquest- *Mandala* Theory & its critique
   b) Carl Von Clausewitz: Discussion on War and its Characteristics.

c) Napoleon: Concept of strategy-element of strategy-War as an instrument of policy.

2. Geopolitical Theories
   a) Karl Haushofer's view of geopolitics
   b) Alfred Mahan and Seapower
   c) Sir Halford Mackinder's two phases of geopolitical theory

3. Doctrines of Nuclear Strategy: the Doctrines of Massive Retaliation, Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD)

4. Present land, Sea, Air and space weapons: Early History of weapons- significance of contemporary Sea weapons, Land Weapons, Air weapons, Space Weapons

5. Recent Arms Control measures: an overview

MAPOL401

Local Government in India

[Core Paper]

1. Evolution of local government: Rural and Urban
2. 73rd and 74th Constitution (Amendment) Acts, 1992: Their implications for local government
3. Rural development: meaning, approaches; Structures and functions of Panchayati Raj system
4. Structures and functions of urban local government: Municipal Corporations and Municipalities
5. Management of Urban Development with special reference to the Role of Development Authorities in West Bengal
6. District Planning in India with special emphasis on West Bengal
7. Role of NGOs in rural development; PPP in urban development

MAPOL402

Post Cold War International Relations

[Core Paper]

1. Factors responsible for the end of the Cold War
2. Post Cold War World Order: Trends and Challenges
3. Major Post-Cold War Issues: (a) Globalization; (b) Global Governance;
4. Disarmament and Arms Control
5. US—Russian Relations: New Developments
6. US – China Relations: Major Developments
7. Regionalism in Post- Cold War International Relations
8. International Terrorism

MAPOL403

Local Government in West Bengal

[Major Elective]

1. Evolution of local government in West Bengal
2. Structures and functions of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the light of the 73rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1992 and the West Bengal Panchayat Act, 1973 as amended up to date
3. Working of PRIs with special reference to evolving leadership, decentralized planning
4. Financial aspects of the PRIs and the Committee System
5. Structures and functions of urban local governments under the 74th Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1992 and the West Bengal Municipality Act, 1993 and Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act, 1980
6. The empowerment of women, SCs and STs
7. Financial aspects of the urban local governments and the Committee System

8. State- Local Government Relations: Evaluation

MAPOL404

Project, Presentation and Participation

MAPOL405

Social and Political Movements in India

[Major Elective]

1. Meaning of social movements: distinction between old and new social movements
2. Dalit movements
3. Peasants' movements
4. Workers' movements
5. Gender based movements
6. Environment movements
7. Tribal movements

MAPOL406

International Law

[Major Elective]

1. Three Schools of Thought in International Law: Naturalists, Positivists and Grotian
2. Laws of the Sea: Its evolution-Features of UNCLOS-III, High Sea, Territorial Sea, Continental Shelf, EEZ, Contiguous Zone
3. Laws of Extradition and Asylum
4. Air Space and Outer Space Law
5. International Environmental Laws
6. International Human Rights Law
7. Renunciation of War; Prevention of War under UN Charter

8. International Humanitarian Laws

MAPOL407

Postmodernism in Social Sciences

[Minor Elective]

1. Enlightenment and modernity: basic features; From modernism to postmodernism
2. On method, power and sexuality: Foucault
3. Deconstruction: Derrida
4. Hyperreality, visuality and culture: Baudrillard and Bourdieu
5. Postmodern feminism: Kristeva and Butler
6. Marxism and postmodernism: Jameson, Eagleton, Callinicos, Anderson; Habermas and postmodernism

MAPOL408

Poverty Alleviation and Social Inclusion in India: Select Programmes

[Minor Elective]

1. Poverty and Poverty Alleviation: Concepts and Theoretical Challenges
2. Conceptualizing Social Inclusion
3. Food Security and MGNREGA
4. Health Security and NRHM
5. Resistance to Feminization of Poverty: SGSY
6. Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Governance: An Assessment

MAPOL409

Human Rights and Decentralization in India
[Minor Elective]

1. Indian Constitution and Human Rights
2. Violation of human rights and human rights movements in India
3. Main provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993---a critique
4. Human rights and Decentralization: Services as right
5. Human rights and decentralization: towards a new framework

6. Local Self-government and human rights---some illustrations.

MAPOL410

Geopolitics

[Minor Elective]

1. Meaning of Geopolitics - the Political significance of 'Space': Ratzel and Kjellen-German *Geopolitik*
2. Theory of Geopolitics
3. Man-Milieu Relationships: Cognitive Behaviouralism and the operational Milieu.
4. Global Geopolitical Change in post – cold war era.
5. Geopolitics and globalization

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References for the Core Courses

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Iain Hampsher-Monk, *A History of Modern Political Thought*, London: Blackwell, 1992.

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Michael Tanner, *Nietzsche*, New Delhi: OUP, 2001
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__ *The Fatal Conceit: The Errors of Socialism*, London: Routledge, 1989

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