

Department of Political Science
The University of Burdwan

Syllabus for the M.A. Degree in Political Science
(To be effective from the academic session 2020 – 2022)

Principles / Guidelines/ Rules
One credit is equivalent to one hour of teaching (lecture or tutorial) or two hours of practical work/field work per week. [UGC Guidelines on Adoption of CBCS]
Core Paper 75 credits
Departmental Optional courses / Major Electives 20 Credits
Inter-disciplinary Electives 4 Credits [Offered by other departments/SWAYAM platform as stipulated by the university regulations]
Community Engagement Course 2 Credits [Full Marks: 20+5=25]
Credit requirement for a PG Programme: 101 Credits
This syllabus contains 20 courses of 50 marks each with a total of 1000 marks and for Community Engagement Course there is an additional 20 marks. Total marks of this syllabus is 1020.
Each course has a nomenclature and an alpha-numeric code
Each student will have to take any two major elective courses both in Semester – III and in Semester – IV among three options in each major elective course.
Each student will have to take any one Interdisciplinary Electives in Semester – III mandatorily from other academic departments of the University of Burdwan/ SWAYAM platform.
All Core Courses and Major Elective Courses will have 5 Credits.
All Inter-disciplinary Electives will have 4 Credits.
Students of other departments, while opting for Inter-disciplinary Electives in Political Science, will have to get the approval of the Head of the Department.
As per University guidelines on the Restructuring of M.A. syllabus, "Students have to participate in the Community Engagement programmes/ activities of the department for the concerned year and follow it up with a written Report & Presentation and Viva-Voce. The main objectives are to develop an appreciation of rural culture, lifestyle and wisdoms among students, to learn about the states of various agricultural and rural development programmes, to understand causes for rural distress and poverty and explore solutions for the same and to apply class room knowledge of courses to field realities. Evaluation pattern would be as follows: Report writing: 20 marks + Internal: 05 marks= 25 [Full Marks]

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Name of Courses	Level MA Semester	Course Type	Course Code	Title of the Course	Credit L+T/ Pr
POL 101	I	Core Paper	MAPOL101	Indian Political Thought	4+1
POL 102	I	Core Paper	MAPOL102	Liberal and Post Liberal Political Theory	4+1
POL 103	I	Core Paper	MAPOL103	Comparative Politics: Principles and Approaches	4+1
POL 104	I	Core Paper	MAPOL104	Politics in South Asia	4+1
POL 105	I	Core Paper	MAPOL105	Indian Politics: Institutions and Processes	
POL 201	II	Core Paper	MAPOL201	Modern Western Political Thought	4+1
POL 202	II	Core Paper	MAPOL202	Marxist Political Theory	4+1
POL 203	II	Core Paper	MAPOL203	Theories of Public Administration	4+1
POL 204	II	Core Paper	MAPOL204	Research Methodology	4+1
POL 205	II	Core Paper	MAPOL205	Post Cold War International Relations	4+1
POL 301	III	Core Paper	MAPOL301	Public Policy	4+1
POL 302	III	Core Paper	MAPOL302	Political Sociology: Conceptual issues	4+1
POL 303 A	III	Major Elective	MAPOL303A	Comparative and Development Administration	4+1

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POL 303 B	III	Major Elective	MAPOL303B	Ethnic Politics and Nationhood in India	4+1
POL 303 C	III	Major Elective	MAPOL303C	India and Her Neighbours	4+1

POL 304 A	III	Major Elective	MAPOL304A	Issues of Citizencentric Administration in India	4+1
POL 304 B	III	Major Elective	MAPOL304B	Understanding Indian Politics	4+1
POL 304 C	III	Major Elective	MAPOL304C	India and the World	4+1
POL 305 A	III	Interdisciplinary Elective	MAPOL305A	Issues in Contemporary Political Theory	4 (L)
POL 305 B	III	Interdisciplinary Elective	MAPOL305B	Public Policy in India	4 (L)
POL 305 C	III	Interdisciplinary Elective	MAPOL305C	Politics of Human Rights	4 (L)
POL 400	IV	Core Paper	MAPOL400	Community Engagement	2 (Pr)
POL 401	IV	Core Paper	MAPOL401	State Formation and Political Regime	4+1
POL 402	IV	Core Paper	MAPOL402	Theories of International Relations	4+1
POL 403A	IV	Major Elective	MAPOL403A	Social Welfare Administration	4+1
POL 403 B	IV	Major Elective	MAPOL403B	India's Political Economy	4+1
POL 403 C	IV	Major Elective	MAPOL403C	Peace and Conflict Studies	4+1
POL 404 A	IV	Major Elective	MAPOL404A	Local Governance in India with Special Reference to West Bengal	4+1

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POL 404 B	IV	Major Elective	MAPOL404B	Social and Political Movements in India	4+1
POL 404 C	IV	Major Elective	MAPOL404C	International Law	4+1
POL 405	IV	Core Paper	MAPOL405	Project	4+1

M.A. (Political Science) Syllabus

First Semester

MAPOL101 [Core Paper]

Modern Indian Political Thought

1. Rammohun Roy: Liberal outlook
2. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and Swami Vivekananda: Nationalism and Nation-building
3. Rabindranath Tagore and M.K. Gandhi: critique of western civilization and the state
4. Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose: democracy and socialism
5. Jaya Prakash Narayan: Socialist tradition
6. M.A. Jinnah : Two-Nation Theory
7. Savarkar: Hindutva
8. B.R. Ambedkar: Social Justice

MAPOL102 [Core Paper]

Liberal and Post Liberal Political Theory

1. Liberalism: various forms
2. Totalitarianism: Arendt and Talman
3. Liberty and Minimalist state: Hayek, Popper and Nozick
4. Theory of Justice: Rawls and Sen
5. Communitarianism: basic tenets; concept of civic republicanism
6. Multiculturalism: basic tenets; multiculturalism in the non-western world

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7. Post-Colonialism: state, democracy and culture

MAPOL103 [Core Paper]

Comparative Politics: Principles and Approaches

1. Comparative politics: old and new---an overview
2. Comparative methods and Utility
3. Comparative Approaches: a) Structural Functionalism, b) Political Development, c) Modernization and Post-Modernization, d) Institutionalism and Neoinstitutionalism
4. Issues in Comparative Politics: a) Political systems; b) Political parties and pressure groups; c) Democratization; d) Civil liberties; e) Governance; f) Environment

MAPOL104 [Core Paper]

Politics in South Asia

1. The concept of South Asia as a region
2. Problems of state-formation and nation-building in South Asia: An Overview
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: India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka
7. Regional integration in South Asia: SAARC
8. Human Security: Issues and Challenges

MAPOL 105 [Core Paper]

Indian Politics Institutions and Processes

1. The Making of the Constitution---democratic legitimacy
2. Parliament and its effectiveness: debates on the decline of Parliament and the rise of the Executive
3. Supreme Court: Judicial Activism vis-à-vis Parliamentary supremacy

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4. Federalism in India: Ethnicity and States' Rights; neo-liberal reforms
5. Political parties: types; ideology and role
6. Interest Politics in India---state dominated pluralism; management of group demands
7. Election Commission in India: Structure, Functions, Role; Electoral Reforms
MAPOL201 [Core Paper]

Modern Western Political Thought

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 [Core Paper]

Marxist Political Theory

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

MAPOL203 [Core Paper]

Theories of Public Administration

1. Public Administration-Stages of Growth, Identity Distress

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2. The state of theory building in Public Administration
3. The Classical Theoretical Development: Scientific Management Theory, Administrative Management Theory, Bureaucratic Theories
4. Modern Theoretical Developments/ Neo-classical theoretical development: Human Relations Theory, Decision Making Theory
5. Contemporary Theoretical Development: Ecological theory, Socio-Psychological theory, Public Choice theory, Pathological Theory of Bureaucracy
6. Major Approaches: New Public Management; Governance; Feminist Approach; and Post-New Public Management.

MAPOL204 [Core Paper]

Research Methodology

1. Meaning and significance of research----information, knowledge and policy; verstehen
2. Ethnographic research and its significance
3. Quantitative research--- collection and analysis of data; Statistical Tools, sampling and types of interview
4. Qualitative research methods---elite interview; participant observation and content analysis
5. Public opinion and survey research
6. Survey of literature and hypothesis formulation; research question.
7. Ethical issues in Social Science Research
8. Research Design and Report Writing.

MAPOL205 [Core Paper]

Post Cold War International Relations

1. Factors responsible for the end of Cold War; Emergence of a New World Order
2. Global Political Economy: WTO; IMF; North – South Divide

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3. Major Post-Cold War Issues: (a) Globalization; (b) Global Governance; (c) Non - traditional Security; d) Climate Change
4. International Terrorism
5. US – China Relations after the Cold War
6. Russia and East Europe, CIS, Central Asia
7. Regionalism in Post- Cold War International Relations

MAPOL301 [Core Paper]

Public Policy

1. The Evolution of the Policy Sciences: From Positivist to Post-positivist developments; Importance of Public Policy in Present Times
2. Public Policy: Meaning, Constituent Elements and Actors
3. Theoretical Approaches to Public Policy Analysis: Rational Choice, Contextual Orientation, Incrementalism
4. Institutional Setting of Public Policy: Legislature, Executive and Judiciary - Scope and Constraints
5. Policy Resources: Human Resource, Financial Resource, Cognitive Resource and Organizational Resource
6. Policy Implementation: Political-administrative Programmes and Politicaladministrative Arrangements
7. Impact Assessment: Socio-economic, Political, Institutional and Cultural - Role of Civil Society, Media and Interest Groups

MAPOL302 [Core Paper]

Political Sociology: Conceptual issues

1. Elitism: Limits of liberal democracy and rise of elitism; schools of elitism; elite perspective on the state
2. Pluralism: political pluralism; pluralist perspective on the state; Neo-Pluralism
3. Citizenship and the nation-state: current debates

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4. Post-industrial society: Post-industrialism and post-Fordism; rise of knowledge society and economy; decline of class politics
5. Cultural bases of politics: From modernism to post-modernism
6. Media and politics
7. Gender and politics
8. Globalization and national Identity

MAPOL303 A [Major Elective]

Comparative and Development Administration

1. Comparative and Development Administration as Fields of Study: History, Concepts, Issues and Significance
2. Approaches and Methods to the study of Comparative Administration: Institutional, Behavioural, Structural-Functional and Systems Approaches
3. Comparative Administration in a Globalizing World: Salient Features of the administrative systems of UK, USA, France, Japan and India
4. Development Administration: Concept, Nature, Scope and Significance
5. Approaches to Development: Rights Based Approach; Sustainable Development; Anti-Development
6. Ecology of Development Administration: Contribution of Fred Riggs and Dwight Waldo
7. Actors in Development Administration: Bureaucracy and Non-State Actors; Issues of Social Audit, Human Development and Corporate Responsibility
8. Comparative Public Administration and Public Policy: Administrative Reform, Change, and Development

MAPOL 303 B [Major Elective]

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Ethnic Politics and Nationhood in India

1. Ethnicity and Nationhood---contending approaches
2. Hindu Nationalism---various facets
3. Tamil Ethno-linguistic nationalism
4. Sikh Ethnonationalism in Punjab
5. Tribal ethno-nationalism in the North East
6. Politics in Uttar Pradesh: Issues of Caste and Social Justice
7. Partition of India and the rise of West Bengal---post-Partition refugees
8. Class and Ethnic politics in West Bengal

MAPOL 303 C [Major Elective]

India and Her Neighbours

1. India and China (Emphasis on relations since 1991)
2. India and Pakistan (Emphasis on relations since 1991)
3. India's relations with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan (Emphasis on relations since 1991)
4. India's relations with Afghanistan, Nepal, Maldives (Emphasis on relations since 1991)
5. India and the SAARC
6. India's 'Act East Policy'
7. India and Central Asia

MAPOL 304 A [Major Elective]

Issues of Citizen-centric Administration in India

1. New orientations in Public Administration- Citizens' participation
2. Service delivery: Public- Private Partnership; Contracting out of public services: the Indian experience.
3. Transparency- Right to Information; Citizen's Charter; National Information Commission

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4. Public Accountability- Concept; Methods of enforcing public accountability; Parliamentary procedures and Social Audit
5. Regulatory Bodies: Central Vigilance Commission; Central Bureau of Investigation; Lokpal and Lokayukta
6. Green Governance: National Green Tribunal, Central Pollution Control Board
7. Gender and Governance: Gender Budgeting; National Women's Commission
8. E-governance

MAPOL304 B [Major Elective]

Understanding Indian Politics: Various Approaches

1. Modernization approach
2. Rajni Kothari's critical modernization approach
3. Lloyd Rudolph and Susan Rudolph's neo-modernization approach
4. Atul Kohli's neo-institutional approach
5. Subrata K. Mitra's dynamic neo-institutional approach
6. Post-modernization approach and post-developmentalism
7. Post-colonial approach: Sudipta Kaviraj and Partha Chatterjee
8. Methodological issues in understanding State politics in India

MAPOL304 C [Major Elective]

India and the World

1. India in the Post Cold War World Order
2. India – U.S. Relations
3. India's Relations with China
4. India – Russia Relations
5. India's Relations with the EU & ASEAN
6. India and multilateralism – BRICS, BIMSTEC

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7. India's Nuclear Policy

MAPOL305 A [Interdisciplinary]

Issues in Contemporary Political Theory

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: a) Poulantzas- structuralist view of the state; b) Marxism, culture and psychoanalysis: Adorno, Benjamin, Marcuse and Fromm.

MAPOL305 B [Interdisciplinary]

Public Policy in India

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; globalization and public policy
5. Public Policy in Practice: The Indian Experiences
 - a) Public health
 - b) Education
 - c) Environment

MAPOL305 C [Interdisciplinary]

Politics of Human Rights

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

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4. Theoretical Perspectives:
- a) Universalism vs. cultural relativism;
 - b) Individualism vs. collectivism;
5. The State vs. Human Rights - revision of perspective

MAPOL400

Community Engagement

[Core Paper] ** Whole content below has been taken from the UGC document
Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (January, 2020) pp. 11 - 12

Sl. No	Module Title	Module Content	Assignment	Teaching/ Learning Methodology	No. of Classes
1.	Appreciation of Rural Society	Rural life style, rural society, caste and gender relations, rural values with respect to community, nature and resources, elaboration of ‘soul of India lies in villages’ (Gandhi), rural infrastructure	Prepare a map (physical, visual or digital) of the village you visited and write an essay about inter-family relations in that village.	- Classroom discussions - Field visit** - Assignment Map	2 4 2
2.	Understanding rural economy & livelihood	Agriculture, farming, landownership, water management, animal husbandry, non-farm livelihoods and artisans, rural entrepreneurs, rural markets	Describe your analysis of rural household economy, its challenges and possible pathways to address them.	Field visit** - Group discussions in class - Assignment	3 4 1

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3.	Rural Institutions	Traditional rural organisations, Self-help Groups, Panchayati raj institutions (Gram Sabha,	How effectively are Panchayati raj institutions functioning in the village? What would you suggest	Classroom	2
				- Field visit**	4
		Gram Panchayat, Standing Committees), local civil society, local administration	to improve their effectiveness? Present a case study (written or audio-visual)	Presentation of assignment	
4.	Rural Development Programmes	History of rural development in India, current national programmes: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Ayushman Bharat, Swatchh Bharat, PM Awaas Yojana, Skill India, Gram Panchayat Decentralised Planning, NRLM, MNREGA, etc.	Describe the benefits received and challenges faced in the delivery of one of these programmes in the rural community; give suggestions about improving implementation of the programme for the rural poor.	- Classroom	2
				- Each student selects one program for field visit**	4
				- Written assignment	2

MAPOL401[Core Paper]

State Formation and Political Regime

1. Absolutist state: its features functions and decline; contending debates
2. Rise of the nation-state in the West- contending approaches
3. Max Weber's theory of the nation-state; nation and the states;
4. Post-colonial states: various forms
5. Post-Soviet States: an overview

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6. Globalization and the nation-state: various approaches; post-classical nation-states
7. State and the New Politics of Development--biotechnological revolution and its social consequences.

MAPOL402 [Core Paper]

Theories of International Relations

1. The Rise and Fall of Inter-Paradigm Debate
2. Realism and Neo-Realism; Liberalism and Neo-Liberalism
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

MAPOL403 A [Major Elective]

Social Welfare Administration

1. Concept of Social Welfare, Social Justice and Social Change;
2. Rural Development and Inclusive governance: Various approaches
3. Institutional Arrangement for Social Welfare & Social Justice Administration: Commissions for SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities
4. Concept of Affirmative action- Policy of Reservation
5. Policies of Social Welfare: Poverty Alleviation - An overview
6. Role of Civil Society Organizations in Securing Social Justice
7. Disaster Management- Elements: Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation; Institutional Arrangements for Disaster Management - Role of State and NonState actors

MAPOL 403 B [Major Elective]

India's Political Economy

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1. Political Economy: an overview.
2. Modes of production debates
3. Making of Nehruvian mixed economy policy; Nehru's relative autonomy
4. Green Revolution and its impact
5. Rise and fall of the social welfare state
6. India's neo-liberal reforms post 1991: Basic Issues
7. Impact of neo-liberal reforms on state, society, democracy and nation-building

MAPOL 403 C [Major Elective]

Peace and Conflict Studies

1. Evolution of Peace and Conflict Studies as an Academic Discipline
2. Theories of War: Kautilya, Machiavelli, Clausewitz
3. Liberal and Realist views of conflict and war
4. Theories of Peace: H.D. Thoreau, M.K. Gandhi and Johan Galtung
5. UNO and Conflict Resolution
6. UNO and Peace Building
7. Humanitarian Protection and Sustenance of Peace

MAPOL404 A [Major Elective]

Local Governance in India with Special Reference to West Bengal

1. Evolution of rural and urban local government in West Bengal - From Local Government to Local Governance
2. Local Governance: The Constitutional Setting
 - a) 73rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1992
 - b) 74th Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1992
3. Local Governance - Institutional Framework: Structures and functions of Rural and Urban local governments in West Bengal

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4. Financial aspects of the PRIs and the Municipalities
5. Impact of Local Governance: The empowerment of women, SCs and STs
Evolving leadership, Decentralized planning
6. Role of Non State Actors: NGOs in rural development; PPP in urban development
7. Politics of Local Governance: State- Local Government Relations

MAPOL404 B

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

MAPOL404 C [Major Elective]

International Law

1. Three Schools of Thought in International Law: Naturalists, Positivists and Grotian
2. Laws of the Sea: Its evolution-Features of UNCLOS, High Sea, Territorial Sea, Continental Shelf, EEZ, Contiguous Zone
3. Laws of Extradition and Asylum
4. Air Space and Outer Space Law

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5. International Environmental Laws
6. International Human Rights Law
7. Renunciation of War; Prevention of War under UN Charter
8. International Humanitarian Laws

MAPOL 405 [Core Paper]

One Project Paper Submission and related Viva Voce Examination