

**Nirma University**  
**Institute of Law**  
**B.A.,LL.B. (Hons.) Programme**  
**Academic Year 2018-19**  
**Semester II**

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Course Code	2BAL232
Course Title	Political Theory

**Course Learning Outcome (CLO)**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the major debates within the tradition of Political Theory.
2. Analyse the interrelations between Political theory and law.

**Syllabus**

**Teaching Hours: 60**

**Unit: I**

**08 Hours**

- 1.1 Plato and *The Republic*
- 1.2 Polis and the question of Justice
- 1.3 Relationship between Philosophy and Politics
- 1.4 Plato's impact on Political Theory

**Unit: II**

**04 Hours**

- 2.1 Aristotle and *The Politics*
- 2.2 Aristotle's Critique of Plato
- 2.3 Ethics and Politics in Aristotle
- 2.4 Aristotle and the types of Government
- 2.5 Aristotle and his legacy

**Unit: III**

**04 Hours**

- 3.1 Thomas Aquinas *Summa theologiae*
- 3.2 Theory of Law.
- 3.3 Theory of Government
- 3.4 Just War Theory

  20/02/15

**Unit: IV****04 Hours**

- 4.1 Machiavelli and *The Prince*
- 4.2 Political Realism
- 4.3 Machiavelli and his context

**Unit: V****04 Hours**

- 5.1 Spinoza and *The Tractatus Politicus*
- 5.2 Spinoza on Democracy and Tolerance
- 5.3 General Aim of the State

**Unit: VI****08 Hours**

- 6.1 Hobbes and *The Leviathan*
- 6.2 Social Contract Theory
- 6.3 Hobbes on State and Political Power

**Unit VII****04 Hours**

- 7.1 Locke and *The Second Treatise*
- 7.2 Foundations: Equality and Natural Law
- 7.3 Property, Economy and Limited Government

**Unit VIII****04 Hours**

- 8.1 Hume and *Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding*
- 8.2 Hume on Experience and Knowledge
- 8.3 Facts and Values and Moral Judgements
- 8.4 Hume on Property, Justice and Government

**Unit IX****04 Hours**

- 9.1 Rousseau and *The Social Contract*
- 9.2 Natural Law and Natural Rights
- 9.3 The Problem of Freedom

**Unit X****04 Hours**

- 10.1 Bentham and Mill: Utilitarianism
- 10.2 Bentham on sovereignty and representative government
- 10.3 Mill and Utilitarian Thought
- 10.4 Mill and Liberalism

**Unit XI****04 Hours**

- 11.1 Hegel and *The Elements of the Philosophy of Right*
- 11.2 Freedom
- 11.3 Spirit and Dialectic
- 11.4 From Property to State

**Unit XII****04 Hours**

- 12.1 Marx and *The Manifesto of the Communist Party*
- 12.2 Human Essence and its Alienation
- 12.3 The Critique of the Modern State
- 12.4 Marx and his legacy

**Unit XIII****04 Hours**

- 13.1 Rawls and *A Theory of Justice*
- 13.2 Rawlsian alternative to the Utilitarian Paradigm
- 13.3 The Original Position and Veil of Ignorance
- 13.4 Critique of Rawls

**Suggested Readings:**

1. Knowles, Dudley. (2001) *Political Philosophy*. London: Routledge.
2. Swift, Adam. (2001) *Political Philosophy: A Beginners Guide for Student's and Politicians*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
3. Gauba, O. (2016). *An Introduction to Political Theory (1st ed.)*. New Delhi: Mayur Paperback.
4. Vincent, A. (2004) *The Nature of Political Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press.
5. D. Boucher, and P. Kelly, (2005) *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. New York: Oxford University Press.

