

Department of Political Science
Faculty of Behavioral & Social Sciences
University of the Punjab, Lahore
Course Outline



Programme	BS International Relations	Course Code	IR-102	Credit Hours	03	
Course Title	Fundamentals of Political Science					
Course Introduction						
<p>This course introduces the basic concepts, theories, and institutions of political science. It covers the fundamental principles of political analysis, the nature of political systems, the role of political ideologies, and the functioning of key political institutions. Students will gain a foundational understanding of the political processes and structures that shape governance and policy-making at both national and international levels.</p>						
Learning Outcomes						
<p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the core concepts and theories in political science. • Identify and describe different types of political systems and institutions. • Analyze the role of political ideologies in shaping political behavior and policy. • Develop critical thinking and analytical skills in the context of political science. 						
Course Content				Assignments/Readings		
Week 1-2	<p>Introduction to Political Science Definition and scope of political science Key concepts: power, authority, legitimacy, and sovereignty Week 2 Political Theories and Ideologies Classical political theory: Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern political ideologies: liberalism, conservatism, socialism, fascism 					
Week 3-4	<p>The State and Government Definition and functions of the state Different forms of government: democracy, authoritarianism, and totalitarianism Week 4: Political Systems and Regimes Classification of political systems Characteristics of democratic and non-democratic regimes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 					
Week 5-6	<p>Constitutions and the Rule of Law Importance and functions of constitutions Principles of the rule of law and constitutionalism Week 6: Political Institutions: Legislatures Structure and functions of legislatures</p>					

Week 7-8	Political Institutions: Executives Types of executive systems: presidential, parliamentary, and semi-presidential Roles and powers of executive leaders Week 8: Political Institutions: Judiciaries Structure and functions of judicial systems The role of the judiciary in upholding the rule of law •	
Week 9-10	Political Participation and Representation Electoral systems and processes Political parties, interest groups, and social movements Week 10: Public Policy and Administration The policy-making process The role of bureaucracy and public administration •	
Week 11-12	Comparative Politics Approaches to the comparative study of politics Case studies of different political systems Week 12: International Relations and Global Politics Introduction to international relations theory The role of international organizations and global governance	
Week 13	Political Economy The relationship between politics and economics Key concepts in political economy: capitalism, socialism, and mixed economies	
Week 14	Contemporary Political Issues	
Week 15	Analysis of current political issues and events	
Week 16	Application of political science theories to contemporary problems	
	Final Term Exam	

Suggested Reference Books

Title: "Politics"

Author: Andrew Heywood

Year of Publication: 2019

Press: Palgrave Macmillan

Title: "Essentials of Comparative Politics"

Author: Patrick H. O'Neil

Year of Publication: 2020

Press: W.W. Norton & Company

Title: "The Oxford Handbook of Political Science"

Editor: Robert E. Goodin

Year of Publication: 2011

Press: Oxford University Press

Title: "Introduction to Comparative Politics"

Authors: Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger, and William A. Joseph

Year of Publication: 2018

Press: Cengage Learning

Title: "Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives"

Authors: Michael E. Kraft and Scott R. Furlong

Year of Publication: 2017

Press: CQ Press

Teaching Learning Strategies

This detailed course structure aims to provide students with a comprehensive foundation in Political Science, preparing them for more advanced studies and practical applications in the field.

Assignments: Types and Number with Calendar

1. Assignment types,
2. Quiz competition among students.
3. Presentations with question answers session
4. And group discussions