Programme	BS Communication Studies	Course Code	PS-111	Credit Hours	3
Course Title	Origins of Democracy and Democratic Institutionalism: Philosophical Approaches				

Course Introduction

This course explores the philosophical foundations of democracy and the development of democratic institutionalism. Beginning with the ancient origins of democratic thought in Greece, students will trace the evolution of democratic ideas through the Enlightenment to contemporary times. The course examines key philosophical debates on the nature of democracy, the role of the citizen, the concept of liberty, and the design of democratic institutions. By engaging with the works of influential philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Rousseau, Locke, and Rawls, students will gain a deep understanding of the philosophical underpinnings of modern democratic systems. The course also considers how these ideas have shaped the development and functioning of democratic institutions in various historical and cultural contexts.

Learning Outcomes

On the completion of the course, the students will:

Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the philosophical origins of democracy, from ancient Greece to contemporary thought, and how these ideas have influenced the development of democratic institutions.

Students will critically evaluate key philosophical debates on democracy, including the nature of citizenship, liberty, and governance, and how these concepts have been interpreted and challenged over time.

Students will apply philosophical theories to analyze and assess the design and functioning of democratic institutions in various historical and cultural contexts, demonstrating an ability to engage with contemporary democratic challenges.

	Course Content	Assignments/Readings
Week 1 and 2	**Introduction to Democracy and Democratic Theory** • Definition and key characteristics of democracy • Historical context and the emergence of democratic ideas • Overview of the course structure and objectives	
Week 3	**Ancient Greek Democracy and Its Philosophical Critics** • The Athenian democracy: Structure and functioning • **Plato**: Critique of democracy in *The Republic*	
Week 4	**Aristotle**: The concept of polity and mixed government in *Politics*	
Week 5 and 6	**The Roman Republic and Civic Republicanism** • The Roman Republic: Institutions and practices • **Cicero**: Ideas of mixed government and civic virtue • The influence of Roman thought on later democratic theory	

Week 7	**Democracy in the Medieval and Renaissance Periods** • The decline of ancient democratic practices and the rise of monarchies	
Week 8	**Mid Term Exam**	
Week 9 and 10	**The Enlightenment and the Birth of Modern Democracy** The American and French Revolutions: Philosophical influences and democratic experiments	
Week 11	**Nineteenth-Century Democratic Thought** • The development of liberal democracy and challenges to its principles	
Week 12, 13	**Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Democratic Theory** • **John Rawls**: Justice as fairness and democratic institutions • **Jürgen Habermas**: Deliberative democracy and the public sphere • Postmodern critiques of democracy: Foucault, and Derrida	
Week 14	**Democratic Institutionalism** • Comparative analysis of democratic institutions across different cultures • The future of democracy: Globalization, technology, and emerging challenges	
Week 15	**Quiz, Presentations, etc**	
Week 16	**Final Term Exam**	

Textbooks and Reading Material

1. Arblaster, A. (2002). Democracy. McGraw-Hill Education (UK).
2. Held, D. (2006). Models of democracy. Polity.
3. Crick, B. (2002). Democracy: A very short introduction. OUP Oxford.
4. Holden, B. (1999). Global democracy. Routledge.
5. Ginsborg, P. (2011). Democracy. Profile Books.
6. Dahl, R. A. (2020). On democracy. Yale university press.

Teaching Learning Strategies

Teaching learning strategies: class participation and panel discussion, to hold a seminar with effective students participation, interactive sessions with students, surprise quiz and presentation on relevant topics, to hold competition among students to discuss effectively different topics related to subject and appreciate students through giving them certificates.

Assignments: Types and Number with Calendar

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