

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE

NAME OF DEPARTMENT/CENTRE/SCHOOL: INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

Subject Code: IKL -901

Course Title: INDIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT

L-T-P: 3-1-0

Credits: 4

Subject Area: PCC

Course Outline: Geo-political background; Indus Valley and Vedic polity—institutions, rituals, monarchy, Mahājanapadas; political philosophy in *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, *Bhagavad Gita* and Vedanta; codification of laws and Nīti texts; theories of kingship, state and diplomacy—Kautilya's *Arthaśāstra*, Mandala and Saptāṅga theory, spies, envoys; Manu and Yājñavalkya's political theory; comparative perspectives and contemporary relevance.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE

NAME OF DEPARTMENT / CENTRE: INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

1. **Subject Code:** Course Title: INDIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
2. **Contact Hours/Week:** L: 3 T: 1 P: 0
3. **Exam Duration (Hrs.):** Theory: 3 Practical: 0
4. **Relative Weightage:** CWS: 20-35 PRS: 0 MTE: 20-30 ETE: 40-50 PRE: 0
8. **Credits:** 4
6. **Semester:** Spring / Autumn
7. **Subject Area:** PCC
9. **Pre-requisite:** Nil
10. **Objective:** To provide a holistic understanding of Ancient Indian Political Thought through primary sources (epics, smṛtis, nīti texts, and śāstras). The course explores the foundations of polity, law, kingship, statecraft, and administration in ancient India and evaluates their relevance for political theory.
11. **Details of the Course:**

S.No.	Contents	Contact Hours
1	Introduction to Ancient Indian Political Thought: Geo-political background; Indus Valley Civilization; Early Vedic and Later Vedic Polity – political institutions (Sabha, Samiti, Vidatha, Rajan, Senani, Purohita), rituals (Rājasūya, Vajapeya, Aśvamedha), transition from tribal polity to monarchy; Rise of Mahājanapadas; Salient features of Ancient Indian Political Thought	10
2	Political Philosophy: Political ideas in the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, and Vedanta; Dandanīti, Dharma, Ideal State, Rajadharma,	12

	Varna and Ashrama system	
3	Codification of Laws and Nīti Texts: Manusmṛti, Yājñyavalkyasmṛti Naradasmṛti, Vishnusmṛti, Sukranīti; Pañcatantra and Nītisāra as manuals of statecraft and practical wisdom; Social order, economic functions, role of law	12
4	Theories of Kingship, State and Diplomacy: Kautilya's Arthaśāstra and the Saptāṅga theory of the state; Mandala theory; Types of envoys (dūtas) and spies (cāras/guptacāras) in Arthaśāstra, Mahābhārata, Viduranīti, Pañcatantra and other epics; Manu and Yājñyavalkya's social and political theory; Thoughts on local administration in ancient India	12
5	Comparative Perspectives and Relevance: Distinctive features of Indian political thought compared with Western traditions; Contemporary relevance of ancient Indian polity	10
TOTAL		56

11. Suggested Books:

S.No.	Name of Authors /Books / Publishers	Year of Publication/Reprint
1	Ancient Indian Political Thought and Institutions, Bhasker Anand Saletore, Gyan Publishing House, New Delhi	2025
2	The Nitisara of Kamandaka with the Commentary, Jayamangala of Sankararya Ed., T. Ganapati Sastri	2024
3	Manusmṛiti : Text with Sanskrit Commentary & English Translation (2 Vols. Set), Ed., Prof. N.C. Panda Bharatiya Kala Prakashan, New Delhi	2 nd Edition 2023
4	Some Aspects Of Ancient Hindu Polity, D. R. Bhandarkar, Life Span Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi	2022
5	Ramayana of Valmiki-With Three Ancient Commentaries:- Tilaka of Rama, Ramayanasiromani of Sivasahaya and Bhusana of Govindaraja (Set of 8 Volumes), Ed., Srinivasa Shastry, Parimal Publication Pvt. Ltd.	2020
6	State And Government In Ancient India, A.S. Altekar, Motilal Banarsidass	7 th reprint 2016
7	Theory Of Government in Ancient India, Beni Prasad, Abhijeet Publications	2016

8	Vidura Niti with English translation, Gita Press, Gorakhpur	2015
9	The Kautiliya Arthaśāstra: 3 volumes, R. P. Kangle, Motilal Banarsidass Publishers	8 th reprint 2014
10	Panchatantra of Visnuserman: Edited with a Short Sanskrit Commentary and a Literal English Translation, M.R. Kale, Motilal Banarsidass Publishers	1999