

Course No. POL.C. 101

LIBERAL TRADITIONS IN WESTERN POLITICAL THEORY

Compulsory Course

4 Credits

Objective

The paper throws light on major issues and themes in western classical and contemporary Liberal political theory. It discusses the contributions of some of the contemporary liberal theorists and also focuses on how various critics have interrogated the basic theories and assumptions of liberal theorists in the West.

Course Content

Unit I: Classical Liberal theory and its critics – Conservative (Burke, Oakeshott) and Marxist (Marx, Engels)

Unit II: Contemporary Liberal theories – Hannah Arendt on Totalitarianism, John Rawls on Justice and Political Liberalism, Nozick's Entitlement Theory.

Unit III: Liberal Multiculturalism (W. Kymlicka, Bhikhu Parekh) and Neo-Republicanism (Quentin Skinner. Philip Pettit).

Unit IV: Contesting liberalism – Communitarian (Sandel, McIntyre) and Feminist (Catharine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin)
Critiques