

# Sido Kanhu Murmu University, Dumka

## Department of Political Science

**Code: MJ -1      AN INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY (Credits - 6, Full Marks 100)**

### **Course Objective:**

The course has been designed to introduce key concepts in politics to the students to sharpen their understanding of political discourses and the ability to make the scientific enquiry into the political phenomenon and political questions. Diverse traditions and approaches have been included in the scheme of teaching to make understanding comprehensive and insightful. Contemporary debates on key concepts like sovereignty, liberty, equality, democracy, and justice allow the students to understand the expanding horizons of discourses in the discipline.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- a. Students will be able to learn key concepts needed to understand the political phenomenon.
- b. They will come to know about the role and functions of Political theory.
- c. They will learn what is power and how does it operate in society and politics.
- d. They will be able to explain the debates on the procedural and distributive theories of justice.
- e. They will come to understand and explain different theories and contemporary debates in democracy.

### **Unit I:**

- a. **Political Theory: Nature, Significance & its Relevance**
- b. **Origin and Development of State System**

### **Unit II:**

- c. **Power and Authority**

### **Unit III:**

- d. **Sovereignty: Monism and Pluralism**

### **Unit IV:**

- e. **Liberty: Meaning, Positive and Negative Liberty**
- f. **Equality: Meaning, Types, Relations between Liberty and Equality**

### **Unit V:**

- g. **Justice : Meaning, Types, Procedural and Distributive Justice**

### **Unit VI:**

- h. **Democracy: Meaning and Growth. Liberal, Marxist and Elitist views on Democracy**

### **Suggested Readings:**

1. Bhargava, R and Acarya A(eds.), Political Theory : An Introduction, Pearson Longman, New Delhi
- O.P.Gauga., An Introduction to Political Theory, MacMillan, New Delhi

2. Shorten, A. (2008) 'Nation and State', in McKinnon, C. (ed.) *Issues in Political Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press.
3. Sen, A. (2003) 'Freedom Favours Development,' in Dahl, R., Shapiro, I. and Cheibub, A. J. (eds.) *The Democracy Sourcebook*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press.
4. McKinnon, Catriona.,(eds.) ' Issues in Political theory', Oxford University Press, New York
5. David Held., 'Political Theory and Modern State', Polity, London , 1994
6. Gyan Singh Sandhu., 'Political Theory', Delhi University, 1988.
7. Agrawal N.N., ' Principles of Political Science', S.Chand & Co, N.Delhi
8. S.P.Verma., 'Modern Political Theory', Vikas, New Delhi.