

Course Code	Course Name	Credits
26PL112	ANCIENT INDIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT	04

### Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the evolution and significance of Ancient Indian Political Thought and its contribution to the understanding of state, governance, and political institutions.
- To examine the political ideas and concepts reflected in the Vedas, epics, Dharmashastras, and heterodox traditions such as Buddhism and Jainism.
- To analyse the relationship between morality, ethics, and politics in Ancient Indian political traditions and their influence on governance and leadership.
- To familiarise students with indigenous political concepts, institutions, and practices, including regional traditions such as Naga political systems.
- To develop an understanding of India's political heritage and its relevance to contemporary political thought and governance.

### Learning Outcomes

After the completion of the course, the graduate will be able to

- Explain the key sources and features of ancient Indian political thought.
- Understand theories of kingship, statecraft, and governance in ancient India.
- Apply the key concept under ancient thought on statecraft and governance to address contemporary issues
- Analyze the relevance of indigenous political systems, including Naga traditional governance, in contemporary contexts.
- Evaluate different traditions of political thought including Brahmanical, Buddhist, and Jain perspectives.
- Purpose practical solution on contemporary issues based on key principles of ancient political thoughts

### Unit I: Foundations of Ancient Indian Political Thought (12 hrs)

Sources of Indian Political Thought: Vedas, Upanishads, Smritis, Epics; Features of Indian Political Thought: Dharma-centric governance, Divine origin of kingship, Welfare-oriented state, Interconnection of religion and politics, Emphasis on social order; Early forms of Polity: Sabha and Samiti

### Unit II: Heterodox Traditions (12 hrs)

Brahminical vs Sermanic political philosophy, Buddhist political philosophy – Welfare state, moral governance; Jainism political philosophy – Non-violence, ethical rule

### Unit III: Kingship and Statecraft (12 hrs)

Theories of kingship and statecraft in ancient India; Kautilya: Arthashastra; Saptanga theory and Mandala theory

### Unit IV: Law, Justice and Governance (12 hrs)

Legal and judicial systems in ancient India; Manu: Manusmriti; Manu: Social laws and conception of justice

### Unit V: Naga Traditional Thought (12 hrs)

Significance of indigenous political thought; Sources of Naga political thought: Oral, folklore, customary laws and practices; Naga village and governance system

### Essential Readings:

1. A.S. Altekar, State and Government in Ancient India, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 2001
2. B.A. Saletore, Ancient Indian Political Thought and Institutions, Bombay, 1963.
3. D.R. Bhandarkar, Some Aspects of Ancient Indian Hindu Polity, Banaras Hindu University.
4. Roy, Himanshu & Singh, M.P. - Indian Political Thought, Pearson India 2017
5. Jayaswal KP. Hindu Polity – A Constitutional History of Indian in Hindu Times. Bangalore 1978.
6. K.P. Jayaswal, Hindu Polity, Bangalore, 1967. 14. N. S Law, Aspect of Ancient Indian Polity, Calcutta, 1960.
7. P. Olivelle (ed. & trans.), Manu's Code of Law: A Critical Edition and Translation of the Manava-Dharamashastra, OUP, New Delhi, 2006.
8. Ram Sharan Sharma. Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, Delhi, Motilal Banarasidas 1991
9. R.P Kangale (ed.) Arthashastra of Kautilya, Motilal Banarasidas, Delhi, 1965
10. U.N. Ghosal, A History of Indian Political Ideas, Bombay, 1959.

11. R. S. Sharma, Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, Delhi, 1996.
12. Saletore BA. Ancient Indian Political Thought and Institutions, Calcutta 1963.
13. V.P. Verma, Studies in Hindu Political Thought and its Metaphysical Foundations, Delhi, 1954.

COs and Bloom's Taxonomy Level (BTL) Mapping– 26PL112		
Course Outcomes	On completing U.G. program in Political Science the students will be able to	BTL
CO1	Explain in detail the major sources and key features of ancient Indian political thought, including Vedic, Upanishadic, and epic traditions, and describe the structure, composition, and functions of early political institutions such as <i>Sabha</i> and <i>Samiti</i>	K1, K2
CO2	Apply key concepts of ancient Indian political thought—such as <i>Dharma</i> , <i>Rajadharma</i> , and principles from Kautilya's Arthashastra—to interpret and address contemporary issues in governance, public administration, and policy-making	K3
CO3	Critically analyze heterodox traditions, particularly Buddhist and Jain political philosophies, with emphasis on concepts such as welfare state, non-violence ( <i>Ahimsa</i> ), ethical governance, and their challenge to Brahmanical political ideas.	K4
CO4	Evaluate theories of kingship and statecraft in ancient India, including the <i>Saptanga</i> theory of the state and the <i>Mandala</i> theory of foreign policy, and assess their relevance in understanding modern political systems.	K5
CO5	Create and propose practical solutions for contemporary governance challenges by applying and adapting key principles of ancient Indian political thought.	K6

BTL K1 and K2 – Remembering and Understanding, K3- Applying, K4 – Analyse, K5- Evaluate and K6- Create

Relationship Matrix- 26PL112														
Course Outcomes	Programme Outcomes (POs)						Programme Specific Outcomes (PSOs)						Mean Score of COs	
	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PSO1	PSO2	PSO3	PSO4	PSO5	PSO6		
CO1	3	2	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1.67	
CO2	3	3	3	1	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	2.67	
CO3	3	3	2	3	2	1	2	3	2	1	2	2	2.17	
CO4	3	3	3	1	2	2	3	3	3	1	2	2	2.33	
CO5	2	3	3	1	3	3	1	2	3	3	3	3	2.5	
													Total	2.27

Mean Score :3- High, 2- Medium/Moderate, 1-Low