

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

BANGLADESH



First Year Syllabus
Subject : Political Science

Three Year B.S.S. (Pass) Program
Effective from the Session: 2024–2025

Mission Statement:

To promote “Progress for Everyone” by fostering transformative education, conducting pioneering research, and encouraging meaningful collaboration with individuals, communities, and partners both in Bangladesh and around the world.

Vision Statement:

We expect that the hundredth anniversary of the National University, our commitment to “Progress for Everyone” will be evident in all areas of our operations and stakeholder engagements.

We leverage our core strength in education, research, and community engagement to address pressing global issues and foster sustainable development.

By 2042, National University aims to strengthen its positions as Bangladesh’s top academic institution and rank among the world’s leading universities. Our focus will be on expanding expertise building strategic partnerships, and increasing our global influence. Our services will be measured by the achievements of the individuals and communities we serve.

S/N	Subject	Number	Credits
1.	History of Bangladesh: Language, Culture, and Identity	100	4
2.	1st papers of 3 elective subjects (2 from subject pool A and 1 from subject pool B)	$100 \times 3 = 300$	$4 \times 3 = 12$
3.	2nd papers of 3 elective subjects (2 from subject pool A and 1 from subject pool B)	$100 \times 3 = 300$	$4 \times 3 = 12$
4.	English (compulsory)	100	4
5.	Total	800	32

Subject pool A: Economics, Political Science, Sociology/Social Work

Subject pool B: Psychology/ Geography and Environment/ History/ Islamic History and Culture/ Islamic Studies/ Philosophy/ Home Economics/ Bengali (elective)/ English (elective)/ Sanskrit/ Arabic/ Pali/ Drama and Media Studies.

Compulsory Subjects: History of Bangladesh: Language, Culture, and Identity, English, ICT, and Bengali.

Paper Code	Paper Title	Credits
111901	Political Theory (Part 1)	4
111903	Political Organization and the Political System of UK and USA (Part 2)	4
Total =		8

Detailed Syllabus

Course Code:	111901	Marks: 100	Credits: 4
Course Title:	Political Theory		Hours: 60

Course Description: This course provides foundational understanding of political Science. It introduces students to the concept and nature of state, law, equality, liberty, rights, responsibility, nation, nationalism, internationalism and so on. As a consequence, these concepts help students to build a strong theoretical foundation for further studies in political science. The student will learn about the great thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau and their contribution to the states and society. Overall, this course encourages critical thinking and helps students connect political theories with real-life political systems.

Course Objectives (COs)

1. Prepare students to understand the key concepts of political Science clearly and confidently that shape political behavior and governance.
2. Guide students to examine the contributions of key thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau whose ideas shaped political thought throughout history.
3. Enable students to evaluate how the state works in society, and how individuals and institutions interact within a political system.
4. To develop students' ability to analyze political ideas and understand how these ideas apply to real-life politics.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

After the successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

CLO1 Remember and understand (Fundamental)	Describe a foundational understanding of key political concepts, institutions, processes and theories within national and global contexts.
CLO2 Understand and analyze (Fundamental)	Identify and explain major ideas and approaches of political thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, etc. to analyze modern political systems
CLO3 Analyze (Thinking skills)	Analyze and interpret relationships between key political concepts such as law and morality, liberty and equality, rights and responsibilities to promote justice, fairness, and responsible participation in society
CLO4 Evaluate and apply (Societal domain)	Develop the ability to apply political understanding to address societal challenges, engage in community issues and make logical decisions as responsible citizen of society.
CLO5 Evaluate and create (Personal & Ethical domain)	Create respect for democratic values, ethical, political behavior national and global responsibilities.

Course contents:

Topics	Teaching Learning Strategy	CLOs
Political Science: Meaning, Nature and Scopes, Political Science as a Science, its relations with other subjects of social science, Importance to study Political Science.	Interactive lectures	CLO1
Political Theory: Meaning, nature, origin and approaches of the Political Science.	Interactive lectures.	CLO1
The State: Concept, theories regarding the origin of state, elements, functions of modern state, Sovereignty; Meaning, nature, Austin's theory	Lectures, reading and assignments	CLO4
Fundamental Concepts: Law and morality: Nature, types, sources of law, relationship between morality and law. Liberty and Equality; Nature, types, safeguards of liberty, relationship between liberty and equality.	Interactive lectures, group discussions.	CLO3

Rights and Responsibilities: Nature, classification and relationship between rights and responsibilities. Nation and Nationality; Meaning and elements of Nationality, Advantages and disadvantages of nationalism, Internationalism, Globalization.		
Political Thinkers: Ancient; Plato; Concept of the Ideal State based on Justice, Rule of Philosopher-Kings, Three Classes of Society. Aristotle; forms of government, contribution to political Science Medieval; St. Augustine; Two Cities Theory, St. Thomas Aquinas: Natural Law Theory Renaissance; Machiavelli; Theory of Power and Statecraft (Political Realism) , Separation of Politics from Ethics and Religion. Modern Thinkers; Hobbes; Social Contract & Absolute Sovereignty, Lock; Social Contract and Natural Rights, Rousseau; Theory of General Will and Popular Sovereignty.	Interactive lectures, group discussions, and thematic assignments	CLO2

Recommended Readings:

- Agarwal, R. C. (2007). *Political theory*. S. Chand and Company.
- Appadorai, A. (1985). *The substance of politics* (11th ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Garner, J. W. (1951). *Political science and government*. The World Press Private Limited.
- Garener, J. W. (2022). *Introduction to political science*. Creative Media Partner, LLC.
- Gettel, R. G. (1967). *Political science*. The World Press Private Limited.
- Hislope, R., & Mughan, A. (2012). *Introduction to comparative politics: The state and its challenges*. Cambridge University Press.
- Hoffman, J., & Graham, P. (2013). *An introduction to political theory* (2nd ed.). Routledge.
- Jackson, N. A., & Tansey, S. D. (2025). *Politics: The basics* (5th ed.). Routledge.
- Johari, J. C. (2004). *Principles of modern political science*. Sterling Publishers Private Limited.
- Kapur, A. C. (1993). *Principles of political science* (18th ed.). S. Chand and Company.
- Laski, H. J. (1992). *A grammar of politics* (Indian reprint). S. Chand & Company Ltd.
- Magstadt, T. M. (2015). *Understanding politics: Ideas, institutions and issues* (12th ed.). Cengage Learning.
- Mahajan, V. D. (1997). *Political theory* (4th ed.). S. Chand and Company.
- Roskin, M. G., Cord, R. L., Medeiros, J. A., & Jones, W. S. (2004). *Political science: An introduction* (13th ed., Global ed.). Pearson Education.

Course Code:	111903	Marks: 100	Credits: 4
Course Title:	Political Organization and the Political System of UK and USA		Hours: 60

Course Description: This course provides essential concepts of political organization, including the nature of the state, the significance of constitutions and the various forms and functions of governments. A central focus of the course is to explore how the legislature, executive and judiciary operate within different constitutional frameworks and how principles such as separation of powers, rule of law, judicial review and cabinet responsibility shape democratic governance. Similarly, students will analyze key features of the American and UK political system with contemporary issues such as bipartisan dynamics in the USA and Brexit, rising conservatism in the UK. This course thus provides a foundational platform for advanced study in political science, comparative politics and governance.

Course Objectives

1. Develop the ability to think critically about political institutions and their functions with significance.
2. Explore the capacity to analyze how the legislature, executive and judiciary perform their functions and why balance among these organs is essential for stability.
3. Teach students how political parties and opposition groups shape public opinion and why organized political competition is necessary in a democracy.
4. Guide students in comparing how the UK and USA carry out elections, lawmaking, and executive functions and why studying these differences improves comparative understanding

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

After the course has been successfully completed, students are expected to be able to:

CLO1 Remember and understand (Fundamental)	Describe the basic ideas of state, constitution and forms of government, roles of the legislature, executive and judiciary.
CLO2 Understand and analyze (Fundamental)	Explain the main features of the UK and USA political systems with contemporary issues.
CLO3 Analyze (Thinking skills)	Analyze how political parties, pressure groups, and bureaucracy influence government decisions
CLO4 Evaluate and apply (Societal domain)	Relate these concepts with national and global political issues to broader social impacts, such as inclusion, participation, rights, and collective well-being.
CLO5 Evaluate	Grow a positive attitude toward ethical political behavior, respecting

and create (Personal & Ethical)	diverse views and democratic norms through group work and class participation.
------------------------------------	--

Course Contents:

Topics	Teaching Learning Strategy	CLOs
Part A: Political Organization: Definition and Nature. Constitution of the State; Meaning, classifications, supremacy of the constitution, amendment process.	Interactive lectures	CLO1
Forms of Government; traditional and modern classification, democracy and dictatorship, unitary and federal, parliamentary and presidential government.	Interactive lectures.	CLO1
Organs of Government: Legislature; functions, constituent power, legislative process, declining trend of legislative power. Executive; forms of executive, functions, cabinet dictatorship. Judiciary; nature and functions, independence of judiciary, judicial review. Separation of Power; importance, Montesquieu's view and its criticism,	Lectures, reading and assignments	CLO1
Political Party: Origin, development, types, roles, significance, role of opposite parties, relation between party in power and opposition in democracy.	Interactive lectures, group discussions.	CLO3
Pressure group: Meaning, functions, roles, difference between pressure groups and political party and pressure group.	Interactive lectures and group discussions	CLO3
Bureaucracy: Nature, functions, Weberian concept of bureaucracy and its relevance. Civil Society; Meaning and types, importance, functions in democracy.	Lectures and debates	CLO3
Part B: The Political System of UK and USA UK: Magna Carta 1215, Bill of Rights 1628, Glorious revolution 1688, Constitutional development. Customs of the Parliament, Monarchy; its power, prerogatives, its relationship with parliament. The British Cabinet; basic features, cabinet and ministry role of the British cabinet, Electoral Process, Law making procedures, judiciary, BREXIT and rise of conservatism.	Lectures and group study.	CLO2

USA: American Revolution and independence war, Constitution, Federalism, separation of power, Congress; powers, the committee system, law making procedures. Presidency: power and roles of the president, constraints of the presidential power, Role of lobby, election and its finance, election campaign, electoral college, judicial system, judicial review, Bi partisan.	Lectures and thematic assignments	CLO2
---	-----------------------------------	------

Recommended Readings:

- Jones, B., Norton, P., & Hertner, I. (Eds.). (2025). *Politics UK* (11th ed.). Routledge.
- Kollman, K., & Jackson, J. E. (2021). *Analyzing American democracy: Politics and political science* (3rd ed.). Routledge.
- Levitsky, S., & Ziblatt, D. (2018). *How democracies die*. Crown.
- Levitsky, S., & Ziblatt, D. (2023). *Tyranny of the minority: How to reverse an authoritarian turn and forge a democracy for all*. Viking/Penguin.
- Heywood, A. (2021). *Essentials of UK politics and government: Pearson Edexcel A-level*. Hodder Education.
- Kesselman, M., Krieger, J., & Joseph, W. A. (2021). *Introduction to comparative politics: Political challenges and changing agendas* (8th ed.). SAGE/CQ Press.
- Roskin, M. G. (2020). *Countries and concepts: Politics, geography, culture* (13th ed.). Pearson.
- মহাপাত্র, অনাদিকুমার। (2009). *তুলনামূলক নির্বাচিত শাসনব্যবস্থা ও রাজনীতি* (Tul anāmīl aka ni r i śchi t a śāsanabyabast hā ō r āj anī t i). সহদ পাবলিকেশন।
- রহমান, ড. মোঃ মাকসুদুর। (2023). *রাষ্ট্রীয় সংগঠনের রূপরেখা* (Rāṣṭr iya saṁgaṭhaner a r ūpar ekhā) (15তম সংস্করণ). আলেয়া বুক ডিপো।
- ঘোষ, নির্মল কান্তি। (2008). *আধুনিক রাষ্ট্রবিজ্ঞানের ভূমিকা* (Ādhuni ka r āṣṭr abi j ñānēr a bhūmī kā). মিতালী পাবলিশার্স।
- আহমদ, ড. এমাজউদ্দিন। (2025). *রাষ্ট্রবিজ্ঞানের কথা* (Rāṣṭr abi j ñānēr a kat hā) (Repr i nt , Januar y 2025).
- সানাউল্লাহ, মোহাম্মদ। (2019). *রাজনৈতিক সংগঠন এবং যুক্তরাজ্য ও যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের রাজনৈতিক ব্যবস্থা* (Rāj anai t i ka saṁgaṭhana ēbaṁ yukt ar āj ya ō yukt ar āṣṭr ēr a r āj anai t i ka byabast hā). কনফার্ম প্রকাশনী।