



FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester

SUBJECT: Political science-I

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Lecture-5



Political theory: meaning and approaches

Concept of Political Theory:

Political theory is a set of specified relationships encompassing political matters that focus and organize inquiry to describe, explain, and predict political events and behaviours. Political theory is considered as the basis and branch of political science which attempts to arrive at generalizations, inferences, or conclusions to be drawn from the data gathered by other specialists, not only in political science, but throughout the whole range of human knowledge and experience. From ancient Greece to the present, the history of political theory has dealt with fundamental and perennial ideas of Political Science. Political theory reflects upon political phenomenon, processes and institutions and on actual political behaviour by subjecting it to philosophical or ethical criterion. The most dominant political theories realise all three goals such as describe, explain, and predict. The theories are the results of thoughts and research of many scholars and exponents of political science.

Approaches of political theory:

The study of political science and in the process of search for political truth certain procedure must be followed. These procedures are defined as approaches, methods, techniques and strategies. Approaches to study political science are grouped as traditional and modern approaches.

Traditional approaches:

Traditional approaches are value based. These approaches put emphasis on values more than facts. Advocates of this approaches believe that the study of political science cannot and should not be purely scientific. They stated that in social science such as facts values are closely related with each other. In politics, emphasis should not be on the facts but on the moral quality of political event. There are huge number of traditional approaches such as philosophical, institutional, legal, and historical approaches.

Characteristics of Traditional approaches:

1. Traditional approaches are largely normative and stresses on the values of politics.
2. Emphasis is on the study of different political structures.
3. Traditional approaches made very little attempt to relate theory and research.
4. These approaches believe that since facts and values are closely interlinked, studies in Political Science can never be scientific.

MCQ

1. Who among the following strongly said that “Man is a Political Animal”?
 - A. Socrates
 - B. Plato
 - C. Aristotle
 - D. None of the Above.
2. Traditional approach give stress on:
 - A. Values.
 - B. Facts.
 - C. Objectivity.
 - D. Precision.
3. ‘Credo of Relevance’ Signaled
 - A. Modernism.
 - B. Behaviouralism.
 - C. Post-Behaviouralism.
 - D. Rationalism.
4. ‘The Intellectual God Father’ of Behaviouralism is
 - A. Charles .E.Merriam
 - B. David Easton.
 - C. Laswell.
 - D. None of the above.
5. Hobbes Theory of Social Contract is explained in his book.
 - A. Republic.
 - B. Prince.
 - C. Social Contract.
 - D. Leviathan.