

BRIDGE COURSE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
 Academic Orientation for First-Year Students

Duration: 10 sessions (45 mins each class)

Audience: First-year Political Science Honours students

Purpose: To bridge the gap between school-level understanding and university-level expectations in Political Science, while also orienting students to the institutional, curricular, and assessment structure.

Bridge Course Orientation: Overview Table

Session Component	Professor-in-charge	Details & Orientation Areas	Learning Objective
1. CCF Syllabus Orientation	SCP	Introduction to the <i>Curriculum and Credit Framework, 2023</i>	Help students understand the structure and flexibility of their academic program
2. Examination Format	SV	Explanation of university exam structure: theory (70%) + internal (30%), answer scripts, word limits, referencing norms	Familiarize students with evaluation methods and prepare them for formal assessment
3. Internship Requirement	SDG	Introduction to CCF-mandated internship (60 hours, 3 credits, project + viva); mention types of acceptable internships (research, community, legal, policy etc.)	Help students plan ahead and take internship seriously as part of academic credit
4. Continuous Internal Assessment (CIA) and Mid Term Examination	SMD	Structure of internal assessment: class participation, assignments, tests, presentations, attendance	Encourage consistent engagement rather than last-minute exam preparation

Session Component	Professor-in-charge	Details & Orientation Areas	Learning Objective
5. Mentoring System	SMD	Explanation of the mentor-mentee relationship.	Build a support system for academic guidance and well-being
6. Department Events & Co-Curriculars	SCP	Overview of department activities: Wall Journal, Dialego, Nukkad Natak, Abki Baar Yuvaon ki Sarkaar, Constitution Day, Seminars, Field Visits	Encourage holistic development, community building, and leadership
7. Department Rules & Norms	SDG	Class discipline, punctuality, communication boundaries respecting common spaces	Ensure clarity in student conduct and promote respectful academic culture
8. Research Projects & Journals	SV	Introduction to College journal and student research projects	Cultivate research skills and writing competence from the beginning
Course/paper Orientation	SCP & SDG	DSC-1- Foundations in Political Concepts	Understanding Core Political Concepts (Details provided)
	SMD & SV	SEC- 1- Democratic Awareness through Legal Literacy	To familiarize students with different branches of law (constitutional, civil, criminal, personal, labour, environmental) through relatable examples. (Details provided)

Course Orientation

DSC-1- Foundations in Political Concepts

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the Discipline
2. Understanding Core Political Concepts
3. Connect Theory to Contemporary Practice
4. Interpret Constitutional and Legal Foundations
5. Engage with Multiple Perspectives
6. Build Academic Skills and Confidence
7. Reflect on Citizenship and Participation

Learning Outcomes

1. After completing this course, students will
2. Grasp core political theory concepts foundational to the first-semester course.
3. Be comfortable applying concepts like liberty, justice, and citizenship to real-life events.
4. Be introduced to ideological frameworks and political participation.
5. Develop confidence in critical reading, conceptual thinking, and academic discussion.

Course Structure

Module I

1. What is Politics? Political vs. Non-political; Political Theory vs. Political Science; Understanding of politics in everyday life.
2. Concept of Power and Authority. Discussion on contemporary understanding of political power.
3. Concepts of State, Nation, Sovereignty, law, liberty.
4. Politics and Media.

Module II

5. Justice, Equality, Fraternity; Rights, Justice, Freedom.
6. Democracy and Authoritarian. Features of authoritarian regimes Debate: “Is India truly democratic?”
7. Political Obligation and Citizenship. Why obey laws? Active vs passive citizenship; Civic duty
8. Introduction to Political Ideologies.

SEC- 1- Democratic Awareness through Legal Literacy

Learning objectives:

1. To introduce students to the basic concepts of law and its role in a democratic society.
2. To develop an understanding of the evolution and structure of the Indian legal system, including the shift from colonial laws to citizen-centric reforms like the BNS and BNSS.
3. To familiarize students with different branches of law (constitutional, civil, criminal, personal, labour, environmental) through relatable examples.
4. To encourage critical thinking and civic responsibility by connecting laws to contemporary social issues and everyday experiences.
5. To identify and apply basic legal principles governing agreements, consumer rights, digital conduct, and citizen-state interaction.
6. Critically examine the balance between state security and individual liberty, especially in the context of anti-terror laws and preventive detention.
7. To engage as informed citizens, capable of using law to assert rights and seek remedies in civic, consumer, and digital contexts.

Learning Outcomes:

It is intended that at the end of the course students will-

1. Demonstrate a foundational understanding of the importance of law in protecting rights and maintaining justice in a democracy.
2. Be able to identify and classify different kinds of laws and legal frameworks applicable in various situations.
3. Develop an awareness of the laws that protect vulnerable sections of society such as women, children, and marginalized communities.
4. Engage in informed discussions and reflect on the role of legal literacy in responsible citizenship and social change.
5. Recognise their rights and duties in commercial, digital, and civic contexts.
6. Participate confidently in public discourse on the balance between security and human rights.
7. Approach authorities and grievance redress mechanisms effectively when legal challenges arise.

SYLLABUS

Module I

- i. Why Laws Matter in a Democracy
- ii. Evolution of India's Legal System
- iii. Understanding Different Kinds of Laws
- iv. Laws & Protection of Vulnerable Groups
- v. Law, Citizenship & Contemporary Issues

Module II:

- i. Law in Everyday Life — Agreements, Accountability, and Access to Justice
- ii. Digital Citizenship and the Law

- iii. Law, Security and Liberty
- iv. Transparency and Empowerment —Democratic Citizenship
- v. Reading legal documents- basic skills

Assessment

- 1. Debate
- 2. Written assignment submission through LMS
- 3. Short presentation.
