

**BACHELORS WITH POLITICAL SCIENCE
MAJOR (CT – I)
8th SEMESTER**

Title: HUMAN RIGHTS

THEORY: 04 CREDIT TUTORIAL: 02 CREDIT

PLSC1822M

Course Objectives

- To provide a theoretical and conceptual foundation in human rights from liberal, socialist, and feminist perspectives.
- To critically analyze the legal and political mechanisms protecting the rights of disadvantaged and vulnerable sections in India and beyond.
- To equip students with the ability to assess institutional, constitutional, and international mechanisms for the promotion and enforcement of human rights.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to explain and critically evaluate the various philosophical foundations of human rights, including liberal, socialist, and feminist approaches.
- Students will gain in-depth knowledge of rights-based legal frameworks pertaining to marginalized communities such as children, refugees, transgenders, elderly, and migrant workers.
- Students will develop the capacity to analyze the role of institutions like the NHRC, judiciary, and international bodies in ensuring justice, recognition, and enforcement of human rights.

UNIT-I: CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVES IN HUMAN RIGHTS

- Concept of Human Rights
- Perspectives in Human Rights
 - Liberal- John Locke, Rawls
 - Socialistic- Karl Marx, Antonio Gramsci
 - Feminist- Martha Nussbaum

UNIT-II: RECOGNITION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

- Politics of Recognition: Concepts of Identity, Dignity, and the Self
- Charles Taylor – *Politics of Recognition*
- Nancy Fraser: *Redistribution vs. Recognition*
- Concept of Vulnerability and Structural Disadvantages
- Intersectionality: Class, Caste, Gender, Disability, and Region
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UNIT-III: HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL SAFEGUARDS

- Social Exclusion and Marginalization: Causes and Consequences
- Legal safeguards:
 - Children- Protection from Exploitation (Article 23, 24 of Indian Constitution)
 - Transgender- Legal Recognition and the Right to Equality
 - Refugees- 1951 Refugee Convention
 - Specially Abled- RPwD Act 2016
 - Elderly- the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

UNIT-IV: CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR ENFORCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA

- Statutory Mechanism
 - NHRC
 - National Commission for SC/STs
 - National Commission for Minorities
 - National Commission for Women (NCW)
 - National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)
- Role of Judiciary: PIL and Judicial Activism

TUTORIALS

- United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights-Debate
- Human Rights of Indigenous Populations
- Human Space, Security Approach to Human Rights
- Environment and Human Rights

REFERENCES

1. Mehta, P. L., and Neena Verma. *Human Rights under the Indian Constitution: The Philosophy and Judiciary*. New Delhi: Deep and Deep Publications, 1999.
2. Pathak, Avinash. *Human Rights: Text and Context*. New Delhi: Rawat Publications, 2005.
3. Bajwa, G. S., and D. K. Bajwa. *Human Rights in India: Implementation and Violations*. New Delhi: D. K. Publishers, 1996.
4. Singh, M. P., and Rekha Saxena. *Constitution of India*. New Delhi: Eastern Book Company, 2021.
5. Kaushik, Vidya Bhushan. *Human Rights and the Constitution: Vision and the Reality*. New Delhi: Himalaya Publishing House, 2004.
7. Mohanti, Binod C. *Human Rights Education: Textbook for University Students*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 2012.
8. Donnelly, Jack. *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*. 3rd ed. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013.
9. Freeman, Michael. *Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2011.