



# INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY

## **PROF. MITHILESH KUMAR JHA**

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**INTENDED AUDIENCE :** UG and PG students of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences and Engineering

### **COURSE OUTLINE :**

The major objective of this course is to introduce the students to some of the key concepts and ideas of politics which shape our political discourse. These concepts are essentially contested concepts and yet inevitable for understanding and explaining the politics of any country or society. A clear understanding of these debates or contestations over some of the key concepts and ideas of politics, it is hoped, will help the students develop their own independent views and judgments about politics and democracy in their own societies as well as in the world at large.

### **ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :**

Prof. Mithilesh Kumar Jha teaches Political Science in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati. His research interests are - political thought in comparative perspective particularly Indian and Western political thought, political theory, Indian politics especially language and related issues of state formations in modern India. His important publications are Language Politics and Public Sphere in North India: Making of the Maithili Movement, Oxford University Press, New Delhi (2018); Glimpses of Mithila and Maithili: The Correspondence of George Abraham Grierson, Kalyani Foundation: Darbhanga (2013).

### **COURSE PLAN :**

**Week 1:** Political Theory: Introduction & Liberty

**Week 2:** Liberty & Equality

**Week 3:** Equality & Rights

**Week 4:** Rights & Justice

**Week 5:** Justice

**Week 6:** Power

**Week 7:** State and sovereignty - I

**Week 8:** State and sovereignty - II

**Week 9:** Democracy

**Week 10:** Citizenship

**Week 11:** Politics & Environmental ethics - I

**Week 12:** Politics & Environmental ethics - II & Concluding lecture