UNIT 1


- **Approaches to the study of Politics:**
  - **Normative Approach:** An ancient approach in the Study of politics – originated in ancient Greece – main theme is to study norms in politics – What ought to be done and what ought not to be done – Criticism and Evaluation. [02]
  - **Behavioral Approach:** A modern approach – originated in the writings of Arthur Bentley and Graham Wallas in 1908. A scientific and realist approach – Features – Criticism – Evaluation. [03]
  - **Post-Behavioral Approach:** A modern approach – emerged against the value-free approach of the behaviouralists – Advocated by David Easton to make the study of Politics value oriented and relevant – emerged after that Second World War. [01]
  - **Feminist Approach:** Also a modern approach – emerged against the male dominated approaches and writing on Politics. Emphasises on the writings and thoughts of women writers – Started during the 18th century (1792) by Mary Wollstonecraft. This approach can be broadly divided into - [Lecture class 03]

**TOPIC 2: THEORIES OF THE STATE**

(a) **SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY:** Originated in the ancient times in the writings of Sophists philosophers of Greece – Took its definite form in the writings of 17th century English political philosopher Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and 18th century philosopher Rousseau.

- **John Locke’s theory** published in his famous book ‘Two Treaties of Civil Government’. His theory also begins with the state of nature – difference with Hobbes – two contracts – one to establish the state – and the other to resist the state.


Criticism and Evaluation of Social Contract Theory. [04]

**IDEALIST THEORY REGARDING THR NATURE OF THE STATE**: Sources of the theory found in Greek Political thought – central theme – State an ideal institution – main advocate German philosopher Kant and Hegel – later preached by Barnhardi, Nietzsche and Fichte.

- Advocates Absolute power of the State – Criticism and Evaluation. [02]

**LIBERAL THEORY OF THE STATE**

The Liberal Theory advocated by John Lock reduces the state to a minimal role – maintaining Law and Order and protecting citizen from alien attack. The theory developed in the **17th century** to support the rise of the capitalist class believes the state is a necessary evil.

Main features – criticism and evaluation.

**NEO-LIBERAL THEORY**: The emergence of Neo-liberal theory in 1970s due to the failure of the welfare state. Political opinion veered around the viewpoint that state should rolled back. Market, and not the state, should regulate the society. State should be limited to essential functions. Advocate of this theory – John Rawls, Robert Nozick. [lecture -02]

**TOPIC : 3**

**MONISTIC THEORY OF SOVEREIGNTY**

Traditional or legal theory of sovereignty first advocated by French philosopher Jean Bodin (1530-1596). Supported by **17th Century** thinker Thomas Hobbes and **19th Century** jurist John Austin.

The main theme of this theory is supreme, absolute, inalienable and indivisible power of the state vested in a determinate human superior. Criticism & Evaluation.
PLURALISTIC THEORY OF SOVEREIGNTY

Advocated at the end of the 19th Century by Lindsay, Figgis, Duguit, Laski, Barker and Follett. Became popular during the First World War. The theory developed against the Monistic view of sovereignty.

Main theme - 1. Importance of various other social associations. 2. Importance on various sources of Law. 3. Importance on International Relations.

Criticism and Evaluation.