

MA Political Science PROJECT PROPOSAL REPORT



**Department of Political Science
Centre for Distance & Online Education**

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MEGHALAYA

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I. Overview:

I. (a) Introduction:

The distance learning course in Political Science has been designed to train the students in the subject and enable them to use the skills and disciplinary insights to critically examine, assess, and explain the political phenomenon. Woven into a coherent structure, with wide range of disciplinary, inter disciplinary and trans-disciplinary modules and themes, the course provides a solid foundation to the students who can take forward their learned skills and knowledge for higher research in the discipline and its associated domains.

Higher education is fast changing globally in terms of its form, nature, course contents, pedagogy, and techniques of evaluation. Universities and educational institutions are experimenting in almost all the domains articulated in the preceding line. This change is both due to the factors at work within the system and forces acting outside. Globalization has pushed them in the ring of competitiveness to work hard to excel or wait for exile. There is a global ranking of universities and other institutions which are known to all on the screen of their computer in a fraction of seconds with a click of the mouse. And students are flying to the institutions which promise them better skills and training in the subjects. Education is all about the addition of value in the individual insights and skills without which he remains deprived of realizing his fullest potentials. Traditional modes of rote-learning are fast getting challenged for a new philosophy of creative and out of box thinking. Innovations, research, interactive discussions, and new modes of project-based and problem-solving methods have occupied the attention in the universities in place of black board and lecture mode. Pedagogy is being reworked, and education is being redefined. Disciplinary boundaries are melting for Interdisciplinary and trans- disciplinary knowledge system.

I. (b) Learning Outcomes Based Approach to Curriculum Planning

In such a scenario, it was imperative to make some fundamental changes in the course curriculum at the under graduate level. The University Grants Commission's attempt to introduce the learning outcomes-based Course Curriculum is, therefore, a welcome step in the right direction. It is just like the performance budgeting in which every unit of expenditure corresponding has output. The learning outcomes-based course defines it clearly what a student is going to learn from the course, and it's every unit, and how are they going to apply the learned skills. The benefit of this course design is that students are not just taught in theory but also how to apply the theory in explaining, assessing and critically examining the political questions and political phenomenon one encounters on day to day basis in real life situations. This aims at introducing a paradigm shift in the pedagogy at the under graduate level. Some of the subjects at school level have experimented this, and the results are very encouraging. The focus of the teaching-learning is not to test the memory power of the students but to assess his or her imaginative and innovative mind in the analysis of given situations.

Needless to say, project-oriented problem-solving research components, building case studies, team and leadership orientations are integral to the learning process.

I. (c) Programme Content: Designing and Developing

A graduate in Political Science should have a core competency in the discipline. He should be able to engage with and reflect on the political questions and issues adequately. What is required for this is the effective communication skill, in-depth knowledge of the discipline and critical faculty which could be applied in analyzing, assessing, and articulating the mind. He should have information and the ability to access the quality literature in the discipline. The graduates should be curious and inquisitive about reading the political dimension of the issues and apply the theoretical frame work to understand them. They should be able to further learn and analyzed them in a broader context of inter disciplinarily rather than narrowing to political perspective only. They should have digital literacy, research temperament and research skills. They should be aware of the ethical values and norms in academic writing and capability to integrate the discipline in to larger bodies of knowledge. They should have an attitude of self-learning as well as working with group membership team spirit.

II. Contents of Programme Project Report (PPR):

II. (i) Programme Mission & Objectives

Mission Statement

The Masters of Political Science (MAP) programme consists of a basic set of required courses, augmented by courses relevant to particular specializations, and elective courses appropriate for various academic and competitive exam related to career prospects. The programme attempts to impart the students a thorough knowledge on macro level of understanding of the nation as well as understanding of society on micro level in a broader perspective. The programme aims to encourage the students with the practical knowledge of political, social as well as the environmental issues connecting with the society. It also takes up human values and social commitment by bringing the issues of justice, dignity of life, peace, harmony, liberty, rights, diversity of religion, ethnicity, etc. The programme takes up social commitment by providing scope to the students to visit practical field in village areas, different institutions, parliament, secretariat etc. The programme also offers courses comprising of relevant issues of gender, human values etc. in the curriculum. The programme offers various courses in the master degree level emphasizing with the issues relevant to the contemporary world.

Objectives

- a. To educate students with the diverse theories, models, approaches and intellectual traditions in Political Science which are the prerequisites for both scholars and teachers in the discipline.

- b. To train students with the appropriate research skills necessary to their professional growth as an active researcher and also to satisfy their research objectives.
- c. To develop students' ability in critical thinking and analysis in scholarly as well as non-scholarly areas and brace them to express it freely.
- d. To prepare students for their entry into MPhil and PhD programs in Political Science, careers in teaching, civil service and others.

II. (ii) Relevance of the program with HEI's Mission and Goals

The MA Political Science programme offered through distance mode is closely aligned with the vision and mission of the same programme offered through regular mode in University of Science & Technology Meghalaya (USTM). The programme intends to provide quality education at the master's level to all students. As a higher education programme, it orients the students towards teaching, research and service to the public. Materializing such objectives, we offer knowledge based at the same time socially responsible education in Political Science at an affordable cost.

II. (iii) Nature of prospective target group of learners

The course is designed to fulfill the requirement both at industrial and individual level. Unlike students who opt the regular stream of education in Political Science, generally students under distance mode constitute pupils from rural areas, poor socio-economic background especially belonging to marginalized sections. The target group learners, hence, include- a class having of low level of disposable income, rural dwellers, women, unskilled men, working men and women, minorities etc. In addition to this, students from other disciplines also seek Master's degree in Political Science can be benefitted from the course. Permanently/temporarily employed persons in different age groups also seek the programme for their career advancement. Besides a segment of women who want to pursue higher studies after marriage also come up for the same programme and can be benefitted from this offered course vehemently. Apart from all these, any person willing to pursue the course are very much welcome.

II. (iv) Appropriateness of programme to be conducted in Open and Distance Learning to acquire specific skills and competence

MA in Political Science is one of the suitable courses to be offered through Open and Distance Learning Mode. The conceptual knowledge can be thoroughly captured by the learners to acquire the capability which will make them polished for employment market. The following skills and competencies can be acquired through distance mode of learning without fail which is generally essential for a master's degree in Political Science.

- a. **Teaching skill:** The Programme impart necessary teaching skills among students by educating them with the diverse theories, models, approaches and intellectual traditions in Political Science.
- b. **Research skill:** The Programme gives training in the appropriate research skills necessary for their entry into MPhil and PhD programs. As part of research training a student can develop his/her ability in critical thinking and analysis.
- c. **Writing skill:** The programme practices the students in academic writing and equally helps them to improve their presentation skills.

II. (v). Instructional Design

The Instructional designer followed a specific standard for creating e-learning course. It starts with researching the material based particular needs of the students. It is done as a team work with instructional designer, teacher, content provider and audio and video producers.

- **Duration and credit:** The program has a duration of two years although students may complete the program gradually within a maximum time limits.
- **Medium:** The course material for MA in Political Science program will be in English medium.
- **Learning Methods:** The learning method developed by university will comprise of independent form of delivery and will constitute the following components- Self-instructional text book, Counseling and contact session at the study centre by the subject experts, Assignment.
- **Means of delivery:** the students will be given with syllabus for a course and also the self learning materials. If the students have any doubt then they can discuss it with the counselor at the time of contact session in the centre.

Duration of the Programme: 4 Semesters (two years).

Faculty and Support Staff Requirement: There are two full time faculty members available and one of them coordinates the MA Programme in Political Science. There is sufficient administrative staff support from the SDE office for administrative work. The service of qualified guest teachers and experts from panels approved by the Vice Chancellor are used in the preparation of SLMs, for taking contact classes and conducting internal evaluation.

Instructional Delivery Mechanisms: In addition to providing Self Learning Material, students are offered 90 contact hours each semester, conducted over 15 days during the weekend. Classes are taken using audio visual aids, and students are encouraged to use web resources.

A repertoire of audio/video lectures are being prepared, which will be made available to the learners on an experimental basis from this academic year onwards.

Course Code	Name of Course	Maximum Marks		
		CE	ESE	Total
Semester - I				
MPS 101	Political Theory	30	70	100
MPS 102	Public Administration: Principles and Approaches	30	70	100
MPS 103	International Relations	30	70	100
MPS 104	Indian Government and Politics	30	70	100
MPS 105	Social Movements in India	30	70	100
Semester - II				
MPS 201	Western Political Thought	30	70	100
MPS 202	State Politics in India	30	70	100
MPS 203	Comparative Public Administration	30	70	100
MPS 204	Peace and Conflict Studies	30	70	100
MPS 205	Comparative Political System	30	70	100
Semester - III				
MPS 301	Indian Political Thought	30	70	100
MPS 302	Decentralization and local government in India	30	70	100
MPS 303	Research Methodology And Statistics In Social Sciences	30	70	100
MPS 304	India's Foreign Policy	30	70	100
MPS 305 (A)	Socio- Political Institutions in North East India	30	70	100
MPS 305 (B)	Social Exclusion: Theory and Practice	30	70	100
MPS 305(C)	Principles of Management	30	70	100
MPS 306 (A):	Indian Political System	30	70	100
MPA 306 (B)	Public Administration in India	30	70	100
Semester - IV				
MPS 401	Contemporary Political Thought	30	70	100
MPS 402	Human Rights in India	30	70	100
MPS 403	Introduction to Public Policy	30	70	100
MPS 404	DISSERTATION	30	70	100
MPS 405 (A)	Urban Administrations and Governance	30	70	100
MPS 405 (B)	Rural Administration and Governance in India	30	70	100
MPS 405 (C)	Diplomacy: Theory and Practice	30	70	100
MPS 406	Introduction To Human Rights	30	70	100

II. (vi) Procedure for admissions, curriculum transaction and evaluation

- **Procedure of Admission:** The admission procedure will be on yearly basis.
- **Curriculum Transaction:** The successful completion of the proposed program, a candidate has to pass each paper with passing grade (30% in each paper)
- **Evaluation Pattern:** The pattern of evaluation will have three components- Continuous and comprehensive evaluation (formative & Summative), assignment, group discussion etc.

Concession for tuition fee will be given to SC/ST and OEC students. The students belonging to SC/ST and OEC category will be admitted to the programme without remitting the tuition fee. The fee for the students thus admitted will be later claimed form SC/ST department as per the rules laid down by the State and Central government.

II. (vii) Requirement of the laboratory support and Library Resources

Laboratory hours are not mandatory for MA in Political Science, but students can avail the computers in the Central Computer Lab of the Centre for Online and Distance Education of USTM which has continuous internet connectivity. Resources in the form of reference books and journals will be made available for the students in the University Central Library. The USTM has a separate Library with more than 64,000 books. There is a separate section in the library for Political Science Discipline with more than 5940 books. Library automation is done. The non members can make use of the library resources and the reference services by producing their student's ID proof. They can use the library for reference purpose and they can avail photocopy facilities. E- Learning library is accessible to all the candidates of online mode for 7 days a week.

II. (viii) Cost Estimate of The Programme And The Provisions

For the design, development, delivery and maintenance of the program, the fund duly approved by the Finance Committee of the University are provisioned as mentioned below:

Budget Head Budget Allocated

1. Salary	35,00,000/-
2. Contingencies	2,00,000/-
3. Preparation and printing of Self Learning Materials	2,00,000/-
4. Computer, Printer, Scanner, Projector, etc.	2,00,000/-
5. Honorarium and TA / DA for Subject Matter Expert	3,00,000/-
6. Media Center, audio-video production etc.	2,00,000/-
7. Hospitality and discretionary fund	1,00,000/-
8. Daily Wages/ outsourcing etc.	2,00,000/-
Total Expenses	69,00,000/-

(Rupees Forty Nine Lakhs only)

II. (ix) Quality Assurance Mechanism and Expected Programme Outcomes

The USTM is having a following mechanism for quality assurance:

- a. All the courses are under Credit based Semester System as per University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.
- b. Curriculum is having flexibility for continuous updation as per the current requirements and having a provision for each academic session, as per the feedback obtained from the students as well as subject experts.
- c. Academic calendar is followed as per the approved schedule.
- d. Examinations of Online candidates are conducted by the examination wing of the University, similar to courses running in conventional mode.
- e. Directorate is having a mechanism to obtain feedback from students under online mode and updating the course content and other facilities as per suggestions, requirements of the candidates.
- f. Progress and quality of the programme is monitored by the Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) for online mode courses.
- g. The quality of the programme is ensured with strict monitoring by the Director and the Course Coordinator along with Subject experts.

Methods Of Measuring Student Learning Are Often Characterized As Summative Or Formative Assessments:

- a. **Summative assessments:** case study analysis, assessment and evaluation of internship reports, project report evaluation, tests, quizzes, and other graded course activities that are used to measure the performance of the learner. They are cumulative and often reveal what students have learned at the end of a unit or the end of a course. Within a course, the summative assessment includes the system for calculating individual student grades.
- b. **Formative assessment:** any means by which students receive input and guiding feedback on their relative performance to help them improve. It can be provided face-to-face in-office hours, in written comments on assignments, through rubrics, and emails.

An array of direct and indirect methods shall be used based upon the above-mentioned methodologies and assessment tools to assess the level of learning outcome(s) under each course with more weightage on 'Formative Assessment' to ensure that the learner improves during the teaching learning process.

Direct measures require a learner to present or demonstrate their learning or produce work so that observers can assess how well students' work or responses fit institution-or program-level expectations of outcomes. It includes examinations, field experience, internships, case studies, etc. as mentioned above under Teaching Learning Outcome Methodologies and Summative Assessment.

Through the indirect measures, the observer would be able to infer student abilities, knowledge, and values based on an analysis of reported perceptions about student mastery of outcomes using the indirect measures. It includes classroom assessments.