**Western Political Thinkers**

**Course Objective:**

The purpose of this module is to introduce to the students some classical political thinkers from the West who shaped the ideas and key concepts of political Science in the Anglo-American tradition. Developing a ‘just society’ and a ‘just state’ has been a perennial question for all civilizations. But the answers are not alike. They are different across civilizations and times. This course examines the ideas of some of the prominent classical political thinkers beginning from Plato and ending with Mao whose response to political questions vividly influenced political thinking. The seeds of the conceptual themes which seem to be so enriched today also found expressions in older times with different accentuation and nodes. The course seeks to the trace that ideas and tradition and examine them critically.

**Learning Outcomes:**

a. The students will know the key ideas of all the political philosophers given in the course.

b. They will be able to explain what was the ideal state according to Plato and how was it linked to his scheme of education and theory of justice.

c. They will be able to answer how Aristotle differed from his master Plato on the conception of justice.

d. They will be able to make a distinction among Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau on the state of nature, the law of nature, nature and form of contract and the emergence of state from the contract.

e. They will be able to answer how and why Machiavelli gave an overriding priority to pragmatism above ethics and values in operation of statecraft.

f. They will be able to discern the meaning of utilitarianism and how Bentham and Mill differed from each other.

g. Students would learn the key ideas in Marxism and will be able to answer how Lenin and Marx interpreted some of the ideas of Marx while applying Marxism in their respective countries.