

## 2. Democracy and Human Rights

Course Code: MAPS - 567

Credit Hours: 3

Teaching Hours: 48

This course imparts knowledge on three interrelated subjects: democracy, election and human rights. It provides an analytical knowledge on democracy, its philosophy, evolution and criticism. It helps to understand significance of election in democracy and also different forms of representation. It also provides knowledge on different dimension of human rights.

### Objective:

1. To provide the students with the knowledge and insights into the idea, practice and challenges to democracy, electoral systems and human rights ;
2. To enable the students to understand and appreciate the importance of interrelationship between democracy, elections and human rights ; and
3. To encourage the students to critically assess the state of democracy, electoral systems and human rights in the national, regional and global levels.

Units	Class Hours
<b>I. Idea of Democracy</b>	<b>12</b>
1. Concept	
2. Waves of democracy	
3. Critics of democracy	
<b>II. Classification of Democracies</b>	<b>12</b>
1. Majoritarian and Consensual	
2. Direct and Representative	
3. Liberal and Inclusive	
<b>III. Elections</b>	<b>12</b>
1. Election as Instrument of Democracy	
2. Typology: Majoritarian, Proportional and Mixed	
3. Election Management and Electoral Reform	
<b>IV. Human Rights</b>	<b>12</b>
1. Concept, Theory, Philosophy and Evolution	
2. Universalism and Cultural Relativism Debates	
3. Major International Conventions	
4. Instruments and Mechanisms to protect Human Rights	

### **Core Readings:**

- Dahl, Robert. 1989. *Democracy and its Critics*. New Delhi: Orient Longman
- Diamond, Larry. 2008. *The Spirit of Democracy: The Struggle to Build Free Societies Throughout the World*. New York : Times Books
- Donnelly, Jack. 2002. *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*. London: Cornell University Press
- Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*. London : University of Oklahoma Press
- International IDEA. 2005. *Electoral System Design: The International IDEA Handbook*. Stockholm: International IDEA.
- Linz, Juan and Alfred Stephan. 1996. *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America and Post-communist Europe*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.
- Powell, Jr. Bingham G. 2000. *Elections as Instruments of Democracy: Majoritarian and Proportional Visions*. New Haven and London : Yale University Press.
- Symonides, Janusz, ed. 2000. *Human Rights: Concepts and Standards*. Aldershot: Ashgate Dartmouth/ UNESCO.

### **Reference Readings**

- Alston, Philip (ed.). 1996. *Human Rights Law*. Aldershot: Dartmouth Publications.
- Baxi, Upendra. 2006. *The Future of Human Rights*. New Delhi : Oxford University Press.
- Dahal, Robert. 1982. *Dilemmas of Pluralist Democracy: Autonomy vs. Control*. New Haven, U.S.A. : Yale University Press
- Farrell, David M. 2001. *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*. London : Palgrave.
- Held, David. 1996. *Models of Democracy*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Kothari, Rajni. 2002 . *Rethinking Democracy*. New Delhi : Orient Longman.
- Mendis, Dushyantha (ed.). 2008. *Electoral Processes and Governance in South Asia*. New Delhi : Sage Publications.
- Shrestha, Kapil , 2003. "Human Rights: The Concept and its Challenges". *HURON Annual Publication* (No.8), pp.63-66.
- Steiner, Henry J. Et al (eds.). 2007. *International Human Rights in Context: Law, Politics and Morals*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Weston, Burns H. and Stephen P. Marks (eds.). 1999. *The Future of International Human Rights*. New York : Transnational Publishers Inc.

### **Online Sources for Information**

- Freedom House ([www.freedomhouse.org](http://www.freedomhouse.org)); Human Rights Watch ([www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)); International Center for Transitional Justice ([www.ictj.org](http://www.ictj.org)); International Crisis Group ([www.crisisgroup.org](http://www.crisisgroup.org)); International IDEA ([www.idea.int](http://www.idea.int)); Minority Group International ([www.minorityrights.org](http://www.minorityrights.org)); National Human Rights Commission, Nepal ([www.nhrc.nepal](http://www.nhrc.nepal)).