#### BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI

### Instruction Division/Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

### **MODERN POLITICAL CONCEPTS (GS F211)**

Comprehensive Exam 2017-8 (I) Sat 02 Dec '17; 09-12 hrs in Rooms 2204, 2206 & 2207

Total marks:  $4Q \times 20m = 80$ Time: 3 hrs (closed book)

Please answer all four questions. Each question carries twenty marks and the break-up for each specific query is given in parentheses. <u>Please structure your answers</u> for which you might want to use a page for ordering your thoughts while keeping an eye on the time.

### Question 1

Write short responses to the following questions.

- 1.1. What is the social contract theory? (2) Why does the State become necessary according to the *Leviathan* of Thomas Hobbes? (2) What is the purpose of government according to John Locke in his *Second treatise of government*? (2)
- 1.2. List out two distinguishing characteristics and one illustrative example for each of the three ideologies: Liberalism, Socialism and Anarchism (9)
- 1.3. What is alienation? (1) How do the State and the clock (time) alienate human beings? (4)

# Question 2

- 2.1. Explain Jean-Jacques Rousseau's views on inequality under the following rubrics: differences between natural and political inequality; (2) the relationship between civilization and inequality; (5) and the emergence of vices. (3)
- 2.2. How do the workers -according to the *Communist Manifesto* of Marx and Engelstransit from being individual labourers into a revolutionary class and what is the purpose of this transition? (10)

### Question 3

In the early part of this course we looked at a schematic representation of the ideological and repressive apparatuses of the State. But, social and political oppression is far more complex than that schematic representation. Many of us may even be part of this system while recognizing that it is oppressive. The experiences of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the early years of the present century demonstrate that the solution of abolishing the market, the economy and the State through a violent revolution or otherwise is perhaps no longer feasible. The available alternative seems to be a democratic welfare state that is susceptible to the demands of politically motivated, non-violent protest groups including conscience-objectors, who break unjust laws non-violently. Is this analysis valid? If yes, substantiate your views with two examples. If you disagree with this analysis, explain your reasons. (20)

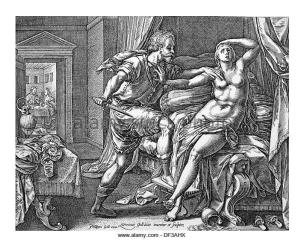
#### BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI

Instruction Division/Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

### **MODERN POLITICAL CONCEPTS (GS F211)**

Comprehensive Exam 2017-8 (I) Sat 02 Dec '17; 09-12 hrs in Rooms 2204, 2206 & 2207

# **Question 4**



The picture above is of an engraving by Golztius (ca. 1570). It represents the legend of the rape of Lucretia by Tarquinius that we discussed in class. A Modern woman scholar Melissa Matthes in her book *The rape of Lucrecia and the founding of the republics*, Pennsylvania: Penn State Univ Press, 2000:6 interpreted this legend thus:

"[... Lucretia's] sexual violation reminds her male kin of their own failed masculinity (for they could not safeguard her) and of their own continued desires for sexual conquest (each would like to have the sexual and political power of the tyrant/rapist)".

Catharine MacKinnon in her article --"Feminism, Marxism, method and the State" *Signs*, vol. 8, no. 4 (summer, 1983), pp. 635-658-- extends this interpretation further. She argued that all men benefitted from rape because male initiatives toward women, while seeking to protect women were also employed for persuading women's compliance - the resulting appearance of which has been called consent. MacKinnon went on to say that women who have laid charges of rape by a man have said that they were raped twice, the second time in court. And she adds "If the State is male, this is more than a figure of speech." Examine the views of Matthes and MacKinnon, which may be considered to be representative of radical feminism, in the light of your own personal experience. (20)