

BA Political Science Syllabus (Regular)
BA-1st Semester
Skill Enhancement Course
Code: SEC-1-POLS-113
Legislative Support

Course Code	SEC-1-POLS- 113	
Credits-3	L=Lecture	T= Tutorial
	L= 2	T =1
Course Type	Skill Enhancement Course (SEC)	

Course Objectives

The course aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the power dynamics and functions of people's representatives at various levels of government. The course will equip students with a knowledge of functioning of local self-governments, building understanding regarding legislative process and importance of budget as a document.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course, students will be able to describe the powers vested in people's representatives at different tiers of government and their significance in governance. They will be able to analyze the legislative process within state legislatures including the stages through which a bill becomes an act. The students will also be able to identify the role and significance of standing committees in shaping legislation and ensuring effective governance and understand the role of the parliament in scrutinizing and passing the union budget.

Course Content:

Section/Block	Topic
I	Power and Functions of People's Representatives: Local Government (Rural and Urban); State Legislature.
II	Supporting the Legislative Process: How a Bill becomes an Act; Role of the Standing Committee in the Making of Law.
III	Reading the Budget Document: Role of Parliament in Passing the Union Budget; Raising of the Demands for Grants.

Suggested Readings:

1. M.R. Madhavan & N.Wahi (2008) **Financing of Election Campaigns PRS**, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi.
2. http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/conference/Campaign_finance_brief.pdf
3. S.Vanka Primer on MPLADS Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, 2008 can be accessed on: <http://www.prsindia.org/parliamenttrack/primers/mplads> 487/
4. Government of India (Lok Sabha Secretariat) Parliamentary Procedures (Abstract Series), 2009. Can be accessed on: <http://164.100.47.132/LssNew/abstract/index.aspx>
5. Government of India, (Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs) Legislation, Parliamentary Procedure, 2009. Can be accessed on: http://mpa.nic.in/Manual/Manual_English/Chapter/chapter09.htm
6. Government of India, (Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs) Subordinate Legislation, Parliamentary Procedure, 2009. Can be accessed on: http://mpa.nic.in/Manual/Manual_English/Chapter/chapter_11.htm
7. Devesh Kapur and Pratap Banu Mehta, "The Indian Parliament as an Institution of Accountability," Democracy, Governance and Human Rights, Programme Paper Number 23,

- United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, January 2006. Can be accessed on:
[http://www.unrisd.org/UNRISD/website/document.nsf/240da49ca467a53f80256b4f005ef245/8e6fc72d6b546696c1257123002fcceb/\\$FILE/KapMeht.pdf](http://www.unrisd.org/UNRISD/website/document.nsf/240da49ca467a53f80256b4f005ef245/8e6fc72d6b546696c1257123002fcceb/$FILE/KapMeht.pdf)
8. O.P. Agarwal and T.V. Somanathan “Public Policy Making in India: Issues and Remedies,” February, 2005. Can be accessed on:
http://www.cprindia.org/admin/paper/Public_Policy_Making_in_India_14205_TV_SOMANATHAN.pdf. Bibek, Debroy “Why we need law reform,” Seminar January 2001.
 9. Bhanu Pratap Mehta **India’s Unlikely Democracy: The Rise of Judicial Sovereignty**, Journal of Democracy Vol.18
 10. Government links: <http://loksabha.nic.in/>; <http://rajyasabha.nic.in/>; <http://mpa.nic.in/>
K. Sanyal, Strengthening Parliamentary Committees PRS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, 2011. can be accessed on:
<http://www.prsindia.org/administrator/uploads/media/Conference%202011/Strengthening%20Parliamentary%20Committees.pdf>

Note: Student may consult online Research Articles from JSTOR, Google Scholar, Google Website and other related online websites.

BA Political Science Syllabus (Regular)

BA-2nd Semester

Skill Enhancement Course

Code: SEC-2- POLS-123

Public Opinion and Survey Research

Course Code	SEC-2 -POLS-123	
Credits-3	L =Lecture	T= Tutorial
	L= 2	T =1
Course Type	Skill Enhancement Course (SEC)	

Course Objectives:

The present course aims to introduce the students to the concept of public opinion and its significance in democratic societies. Its objective is to provide students with the knowledge and skills to conduct survey research using interview techniques and questionnaires. The course aims at helping the students to critically evaluate the utility and limitations of opinion polls and exit polls in gauging public sentiment.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course, students will be able to define public opinion and explain its features and importance in democratic governance. They will also be able to identify the various factors that influence public opinion formation and expression. They will be able to design and implement survey research using appropriate interview techniques and questionnaire methods. They will also be developing the ability to analyze quantitative data. They will be able to understand the significance of opinion polls and exit polls in reflecting public sentiment and electoral outcomes.

Course Content:

Unit	Topic
I	Public Opinion: Meaning and Features. Public Opinion and Democracy.
II	Understanding Survey Research (a) Interview techniques. (b) Questionnaire method.
III	Quantitative Data: Meaning, Analysis and Interpretation. Understanding the Opinion Polls and Exit Polls.

Suggested Readings

1. R. Karandikar, C. Pyne and Y. Yadav (2002) **Predicting the 1998 Indian Parliamentary Elections, Electoral Studies, Vol. 21.**
2. M. McDermott and K. A. Frankovic (2003) **Horsrace Polling and Survey Methods Effects: An Analysis of the 2000 Campaign**, Public Opinion Quarterly.

Additional Readings:

1. K. Warren (2001), **In Defense of Public Opinion Polling**, Boulder: Westview Press.
2. W. Cochran (2007), **Sampling Techniques**, John Wiley & Sons.
3. G. Gallup (1948) **A Guide to Public Opinion Polls**. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
4. D. Rowntree (2000) **Statistics without Tears: an Introduction for Non Mathematicians**, Harmondsworth: Penguin.

Suggested Student Exercises:

1. Discussion of readings and Indian examples.

2. Groups of students to collect examples of and discuss various sample based studies across many fields: e.g. consumer behaviour, unemployment rates, educational standards, elections, medicinal trials etc.
3. Non-random sampling: The students have to identify one group of people or behaviour that is unique or rare and for which snowball sampling might be needed. They have to identify how they might make the initial contact with this group to start snowball rolling.
4. Give the students the electoral list of their area. The students have to draw a random sample of n number of respondents.
5. For this activity, working with a partner will be helpful. The class should first decide on a topic of interest. Then each pair should construct a five-item self report questionnaire. Of the five items, there should be at least one nominal response, one ordinal response and one interval. After the common questionnaire is constructed putting together the questions from everyone, working in pairs, the questionnaire should be administered on 10 different individuals.
6. Give the students a questionnaire from any public opinion survey and ask them to identify the type of variables.

Note: Student may consult online Research Articles from JSTOR, Google Scholar, Google Website and other related online websites.

