

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE FOR WOMEN'S (AUTONOMOUS), VISAKHAPATNAM
B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE THIRD YEAR
ELECTORAL POLITICS AND VOTING BEHAVIOUR

V SEMESTER
POL-E4-5503

PAPER-I
SYLLABUS

Max. Marks: 100
Time: 3 hrs.

OBJECTIVES: TO ENABLE THE STUDENTS TO

- Understand the institutional orientation and electoral politics in India.
- Identify the role of the Election Commission.
- Articulate the challenges to free and fair elections.

COURSE OUTCOMES: On successful completion of the course the students will be able to:

- Analyse the safeguards to maintain free and fair elections.
- Acquaint student with the structure and manner of functioning of Election Commission of India.
- Provide an overview on voter turnout, voting behaviour in India.
- Aware of the role of new media and technology in election campaign.
- Develop of the required skills for data collection, research in election management.

UNIT-I: ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY

1. Electoral Politics in India – Pre- Independence and Post-Independence, Nature and Characteristics.
2. Electoral Process – Nature and Significance.

UNIT – II: ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

1. Composition, Powers and Functions in Election Commission of India.
2. Merits and Demerits of Election system of India- Political participation – General Elections in India since 1952.
3. Elections in Local Bodies – State Election Commission.

UNIT – III: ISSUES IN ELECTORAL POLITICS

1. Corruption, Money power, rigging, booth capturing.
2. Un- democratic party system, politics of political defections and Reservations- Ethics in Elections.
3. Need of Electoral System- Reports of Tar Kunder, Goswamy, Indra Jet Gupta Committees.

UNIT-IV: VOTING BEHAVIOUR

1. Public Opinion: Meaning and its role in Democratic Politics.
2. Voting Behaviour: Meaning, Nature and determinants of voting behaviour: Caste, Religion, Language, Region etc.

UNIT – V: MANAGEMENT OF ELECTIONS

1. Moral Code Conduct, Filing Election Nominations and Affidavits.
2. Use of new techniques and methods in election campaigns: Membership drive, Responsibility Management, Booth Management
3. New ways of generating funds, Polling research, Opinion Polls, Predictions, Techniques of interpreting collected election data, use of print, electronic and social media in elections.

REFERENCES:

1. Basu D. D, Introduction to Constitution of India, Lexis Butterworths, 2018.
2. P. R. Brass, The Politics of India since Independence, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1974.
3. C.P. Bhambri, Politics in India since Independence, Delhi, Shipra Publications, 1990.
4. J. C. Agarwal & N.K. Choudhary, Election in India, Shipra Publications, New Delhi, 1998.
5. R. Ali, Representative Democracy and Concept of free and Fair Elections, Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, 2006.
6. D. Anand, Electoral Reforms – Curbing Role of Money Power, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, 2005.
7. A. Bajpai, Indian Electoral System –An Analytical Study, Nardeen Book Centre, New Delhi, 2002.
8. A. K, Bhagat, Elections and Electoral Reforms in India, Vikas Publications, New Delhi, 2006
9. R. P. Bhalla, The Electoral System, Its Operation and Implications for Democracy in India, Teaching Politics, New Delhi, 1989.
10. R. Hegde, Electoral Reforms – Lack of Political Will, Bangalore, Karnataka State Janata Party, 1987.
11. P. N. Sharma, Elections and National Politics, Shipra Publications, New Delhi, 2004.
12. Eldersveld, S.J. Experimental Propaganda Techniques and Voting Behaviour, The American Political Science Review, New York, 1986.
13. Eldersveld, S.J. Theory and Method in Voting Behaviour Research, The American Political Science Review, New York, 1992.
14. Jain, S. State Funding of Elections of Political Parties in India, Journal of the Indian Law Institute, Allahabad, 1999.
15. Sridharan, E. Toward State Funding of Elections in India: A Comparative Perspective on Possible Options, The Journal of Policy Reforms, 3:3, pp.229-254.
16. Rosenblum. N Political Parties as Membership Groups, Columbia Law Review, 100(3), pp.813-844.

IV. Co-Curricular Activities (*Training of students by the teacher: Total 10 hours*):

A). Mandatory:

1. **FOR TEACHER:** Training of students by teacher in the classroom for a total of not less than 10 hours on collection of data relating to General Elections to Lok Sabha/Assembly or elections to Local bodies for a particular period, analysis of data by using statistical tools, preparation of questionnaire on voting behavior, identifying techniques for interpretation of election data and imparting skills involved in political campaigning by using new media.
2. **FOR STUDENT:** Students have to visit to nearby residential colony or street or a village, collect data regarding their voting behavior, voter turnout by interviewing the voters using

formal and informal questionnaire, interaction with the voters and individually submit his / her observation as a hand-written Fieldwork/Project work Report not exceeding 10 pages in the given format to the teacher.

3. Suggested Fieldwork/Project work Format:

Title Page, Student Details, Acknowledgements, Index page, Objectives, Step-wise process, Findings, Conclusion and References.

4. Max marks for Fieldwork/Project work Report: 05

5. Unit Tests /Internal Examinations

b). Suggested Co-Curricular Activities

1. Training of students by a related field expert.

2. Reading Local Daily newspaper either print or online.

3. Reading Editorial pages, blogs and websites for various ideological perspectives.

4. Assignments.

5. Discuss the debates around any recent Ordinance, Bill or Act in the Parliament or State Legislature.

6. Discuss any contemporary practice or event that violates the true spirit of democracy and political equality.

7. Seminars, Group discussions, Quiz, Debates etc.

8. Witness any incident occurred in your surroundings that would be considered for obstacle for reforms in politics

9. Invited lectures and presentations on related topics by experts in Electoral Politics.

10. Read the guidelines issued by Supreme Court in landmark cases relating to Political Defections, Anti-democracy acts of political parties.

11. Arrange Guest Lectures inviting election authorities such as District Returning Officer /Observers / Experts in Election Management.