



UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

Discipline	POLITICALSCIENCE				
Course Code	UK4DSEPOS200				
Course Title	Psephology				
Type of Course	DSE				
Semester	4				
Academic Level					
Course Details	Credit	Lecture Per week	Tutorial Per week	Practical Per week	Total Hours/Week
	4	4 hours	-	-	4
Pre-requisites	1. 2.				
Course Summary	This course aims to facilitate an interdisciplinary study of elections and voting behavior, covering theoretical frameworks, historical analysis, empirical research, and practical applications. Through these components, students will gain the tools necessary to comprehend and forecast electoral outcomes effectively.				

Detailed Syllabus:

Module	Unit	Content	Hrs
I	Introduction to Psephology		12
	1	Definition-Meaning and Nature of Psephology	
	2	Evolution of Psephology in India	
	3	Lokniti- CSDS	
II	Theories of Voting Behavior		12
	4	Sociological Model of Voting Behavior	
	5	Rational Choice Theory	
	6	Psycho Social Model of Voting	
	7	Agenda Setting Theory	
III	Determinants of Voting Behavior in India		12
	8	Gender, age, caste, class, religion	
	9	Party Preferences and Strategic Voting	
	10	Role of candidates in elections	
	11	Role of emotions in Indian elections.	
	12	Eco chambers and Indian elections	
IV	Practicing Psephology– Before Survey		12
	13	Sampling	
	14	Questionnaire preparation, Administering the questionnaire	
V	Practicing Psephology–After Survey		12
	15	Understanding voting behavior based on field study	
	16	Report Writing	



Essential Readings

- Arzheimer, K., Evans, J. J., & Lewis-Beck, M. S. (2012). *The SAGE Handbook of Electoral Behaviour*. Sage Publications.
- Atkeson, L. R., & Alvarez, R. M. (Eds.). (n.d.). *The Oxford Handbook of Polling and Survey Methods*. Oxford University Press.
- Blais, A., & Indridason, I. H. (Eds.). (2015). *Making Political Choices: Canada and the United States*. University of Toronto Press.
- Chawla, N. (2019). *Every Vote Counts: The Story of India's Elections*. HarperCollins India.
- Clarke, H. D., Kavanagh, D., & Simpson, D. (2019). *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*. Oxford University Press.
- Evans, J. A. J. (n.d.). *Voters and Voting: An Introduction*. Sage Publications.
- Franklin, M. N., Mackie, T. T., & Valen, H. (Eds.). (1992). *Electoral Change: Responses to Evolving Social and Attitudinal Structures in Western Countries*. Cambridge University Press.
- Johnston, R., & Pattie, C. (Eds.). (2018). *The Routledge Handbook of Elections, Voting Behavior and Public Opinion*. Routledge.
- Lewis-Beck, M. S., & Rice, T. W. (1992). *Forecasting Elections*. Congressional Quarterly Press.
- Lijphart, A. (1999). *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-six Countries*. Yale University Press.
- Moon, N. (1999). *Opinion Polls: History, Theory and Practice*. Manchester University Press.
- Nadeau, R., Niemi, R. G., & Yoshinaka, A. (Eds.). (2012). *Comparing Democracies 4: Elections and Voting in a Changing World*. Sage.
- Norpoth, H., & Lewis-Beck, M. S. (Eds.). (2003). *The American Voter Revisited*. University of Michigan Press.
- Roy, J., Singh, S. P., & Fournier, P. (n.d.). *The Power of Polls?: A Cross-National Experimental Analysis of the Effects of Campaign Polls*. Cambridge University Press.
- Rose, R., & Urwin, D. W. (Eds.). (1970). *Parties and Elections in Western Europe: Electoral and Party Systems in Western Europe, 1945-1968*. Faber & Faber.
- Roy, P., & Sopariwala, D. R. (2019). *The Verdict: Decoding India's Elections*. HarperCollins India.
- Shah, A., & Lupu, N. (Eds.). (2016). *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*. Oxford University Press.
- Thakur, D. (1996). *Psephology and Elections Forecasting*.
- Thomassen, J. (Ed.). (2005). *The European Voter: A Comparative Study of Modern Democracies*. Oxford University Press.
- Wattenberg, M. P. (2013). *The Decline of American Political Parties, 1952-1994*. Harvard University Press.
- Ware, A., & Peverill, S. (Eds.). (2014). *Oxford Handbook of American Elections and Political Behavior*. Oxford University Press.
- Yadav, Y. (2020). *Making Sense of Indian Democracy: Theory in Practice*. Permanent Black.

Course Outcomes

No.	Upon completion of the course the graduate will be able to	Cognitive Level	PSO addressed
CO-1	Understand the concept of Psephology	U, An	PSO-1,2
CO-2	Understand theories of Psephology	U, An, E	PSO-4
CO-3	Analyze the major variables in Psephology	Ap, An, E	PSO-3



CO 4	Understand sampling and questionnaire formation.	Ap,E, C	PSO-2
CO 5	Apply voting theories practically after survey	Ap,C	PSO-7

R-Remember, U-Understand, Ap-Apply, An-Analyse, E-Evaluate, C-Create

Note: 1or2COs/module

Name of the Course: Psephology

Credits:4: 0:0 (Lecture: Tutorial: Practical)

CO No.	CO	PO/PSO	Cognitive Level	Knowledge Category	Lecture (L)/Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)
CO-1	Understand the concept of Psephology	PO6 PSO-2	U,An	F	L	-
CO-2	Understand theories of Psephology	PO1 PSO-4	U,An, E	C	L	-
CO -3	Analyze the major variables in Psephology	PO3 PSO-3	Ap, An, E	P	L	-
CO-4	Understand sampling and questionnaire formation.	PO4 PSO-2	Ap,E, C	P	L	-
CO-5	Apply voting theories practically in after survey	PO4 PSO-7	Ap,C	P	L	P

F-Factual,C-Conceptual,P-Procedural,M-Metacognitive

Mapping of COs with PSOs and POs:

	PSO1	PSO2	PSO3	PSO4	PSO5	PSO6	PSO7	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6
CO1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
CO2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
CO3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-



CO4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
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CO5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-
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Correlation Levels:

Level	Correlation
-	Nil
1	Slightly/Low
2	Moderate/Medium
3	Substantial/High

Assessment Rubrics:

- Quiz/Assignment/Quiz/Discussion/Seminar
- MidtermExam
- ProgrammingAssignments
- Final Exam

Mapping of CostoAssessmentRubrics:

	Internal Exam	Assignment	Project Evaluation	EndSemester Examinations
CO1	✓			✓
CO2	✓			✓
CO3	✓			✓
CO4		✓		✓
CO5		✓		✓
CO6			✓	

