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## (Established under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956, by notification No.F.9-12/2001-U3 Government of India) Accredited by NAAC with ‘A’ Grade­­­­­ Founder: Prof. Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, M.Sc.,Ph.D. *(Awarded Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri by President of India) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* *Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences*

**Sub Committee of Political science - Specialization for Curriculum Development**

**Under Graduate**

**Course Title: Politics and the Media in India**

**Course Code:**

**Number of Credits: 4**

**Level: 2**

**Introduction:**

The course will serve as an introduction to how political discourse is covered by the media in India. It will acquaint students with the language of political reporting and make them familiar with political processes such as elections, exit-polls, budgets and the workings of political parties. As an elective, students without a background in either Political Science or Media Studies can also be familiarized with the necessary concepts to understand media coverage of politics.

Unlike countries where two-party systems thrive, politics in India is multi-party in nature. Regional politics plays an important role in the national political discourse. The course seeks to familiarize students with the national and local political landscape while also equipping them with the skills of a political reporter.

The course will also provide a broad outline of political developments in post-Independence India discussing important events such as the linguistics reorganization of states, the Emergency and its aftermath, the post-Liberalization era and contemporary political developments.

**Learning Objective: (using Blooms taxonomy)**

1. To familiarize students with the language of media coverage of politics in India.
2. To analyze the purpose of political journalism and its impact.
3. To also provide students without a background in Political Science or Media Studies with an overview of significant political developments in India for a better comprehension of the media coverage of politics.

**Learning Outcome (s):**

1. Students will be able to critically engage with the media coverage of politics. This will be done through discussions and readings in every unit of the course.
2. Students will also gain an understanding of political processes such as elections so as to gain a better appreciation of media coverage of politics.

**Pre-learning / Pre-requisite:**

**Course Outline**

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| **S. No.** | **Topic** | **Hours** |
| 1. | **Introduction to Politics and the Press**   * What is Political Reporting? Significance * What makes for good political reporting? * What is the purpose of political reporting? * Does the Media have biases? | 4 |
| 2. | **The power and limitations of the media in in covering politics**   * Discussions based on writings on political reporting by writers such as George Orwell, Balgangadhar Tilak, M J Akbar, etc. * Politics covered in traditional media and New Media (such as social media) | 8 |
| 3. | **Media Coverage of Political Systems**   * How does the media cover the three tiers of government – National, State and Local * Covering Budgets * Analyzing news stories and editorials based on policy announcements * Covering Regional politics   A look at the impact of regional politics on the national scene and the disproportionate representation of certain regions | 16 |
| 4. | **Covering Elections**  Elections are both the most exciting and trying times in the career of a political journalist.   * How India is administratively divided – from a Lok Sabha constituency to a polling station. * The functioning of the Election Commission and issues such as allocation of election symbols, EVMs, the Model Code of Conduct, delimitation etc. * Processes within political parties such as seat-sharing, candidate lists, etc. * On the campaign trail – how elections are covered in campaign season * Opinion and Exit polls * Covering Rajya Sabha and Presidential elections | 16 |
| 5. | **An Overview of Media Coverage of Politics in India**  How were the main events in Indian politics in the Post-Independence era covered   * From the euphoria of the initial years until the Emergency * Censorship during the Emergency * The changes in the political and media landscape until 1991 * The era of Mandal-Masjid agitations and coalition politics and subsequent developments in Post-Liberalization India | 10 |
| 6. | **Scams and Scandals**  A look at some of the major political scandals in India and how they were uncovered by journalists. | 6 |
|  | **Total Hours** | **60** |

**Pedagogy**

1. Interactive class discussions on every concept. Small class size.
2. Use of newspaper articles, videos, etc. to further explain concepts.
3. Guest lectures by experts in the field.
4. Evaluations are conducted throughout the semester to ensure that the students’ outcomes are appraised.

**Books Recommended:**

* Akbar, M. J. *Byline.* Roli Books, 2004
* Armstrong, Rob. *Covering politics: a handbook for journalists*. Ames, IA: Blackwell Pub., 2004.
* Gokhale, L.N. “Tilak as Journalist” *Political Thought and Leadership of Lokmanya Tilak*, edited by N. R. Inamdar
* Guha, Ramachandra. *India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy.* London: Picador, 2008.
* Kapoor, Coomi *The Emergency: A Personal History*. Penguin India, 2015.
* Nayar, Kuldip. *Emergency Retold.* Konark Publishers, 2013.
* Orwell, George, and Peter Davison. *Orwell and politics.* London: Penguin Books, 2001.
* Ram, N. *Why Scams are Here to Stay: Understanding Political Corruption in India*, 2017.

Additional reading material and online resources will be provided to students during the course.

**Suggested Assessment/ Evaluation Methods:**

* Hands-on writing and reporting assignments on current events
* Students can be assigned individual states in the country and asked to follow political developments in the state through the course of the semester

**Benchmarked against similar courses in other national/ international universities /organizations**

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| **S. No.** | **Name of the Course** | **Name of University where it is offered** |
| 1. | Political Reporting: Covering elections, governance and the democratic process | Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School |
| 2. | POLS 317: Media and Politics | School of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs, Washington State University |
| 3. | Making Sense of Politics | Asian College of Journalism |

**Justification for change in an existing course / or a new course:**

The course is relevant as it will contribute to students’ understanding of India through the lens of contemporary politics and the media’s coverage of it. At the same time, it will provide the context necessary for scrutinizing political developments by looking at both the significant events that shaped contemporary political discourse as well as the language of political coverage.

Through an interdisciplinary approach that draws from Political Science, Media Studies and the practice of Journalism, the course also seeks to impact specific writing skills required by political reporters.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Members** | Khaliq Parkar | Vaidya G | Dr. Shirish Kavadi |  |  |
| **Designation** | Assistant Professor | Assistant Professor | Visiting faculty |  |  |
| **Org. / Inst.** | SSLA | SSLA | Free lance |  |  |
| **Signature** |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Name of Experts** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Designation** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Org. / Inst.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Signature** |  |  |  |  |  |

**Signature of Dean:**

**Date:**