

HS301 Policy Analysis and Advocacy Skills

Credit: 3-0-0-3

Prerequisite: Consent of the faculty member

Students intended for: B.Tech

Elective or Core: Elective

Semester: Even/Odd

Course objective: This is an exclusively practice-based course that gives the student an opportunity to apply his/her knowledge of debating skills to policy matters. Policy issues involve the ability to assess a situation by careful scrutiny of descriptive, interpretive and evaluative claims. Problems and solutions, ends and means, causes and effects form the core of any policy debate that wishes to proceed from the 'what is' to the 'what ought to be'. The course also examines how techniques of analysis and gathering of evidence can be used conversely as a synthetic art to endorse policy issues.

Course content:

- Logical Thinking, the Enthymeme; standard fallacies
- Common *topoi*
- Features of the Forensic Debate: The Proposition, Affirmative and Negative Sides, Presumption and Burden of Proof, Prima Facie Case, Justification for a Program of Action, Disparity and Stock Issue Analysis, Techniques of Gathering Evidence from various sources including newspapers, journals, periodicals, government documents, of using citizens' empowerment provisos to elicit information etc.
- Standard Speaker Formats, Parliamentary Debates and Resolutions, Techniques of Cross-Examination, Academic Debate, Debate Flow Sheet and Debate Critique.

Method of Evaluation:

Two Quizzes and End of Semester Examination (oral and written)

Prescribed Reading:

Select Excerpts from The Hansard. Edited verbatim report of the proceedings of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Select Newspaper Articles besides select essays from journals like *Resurgence*, *Down to Earth*, back numbers of the now defunct *MANAS* etc.

J. Michael Sproule: *Argument. Language and its Influence*. (McGraw-Hill) New York 1980: Chapters ten & eleven only.

Recommended Reading:

Eugene Bardach: *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis. The Eight Fold Guide to More Effective Problem Solving*. (CQ Press) Washington 2005.

George M. Guess & Paul G. Farnham: *Cases in Public Policy Analysis*. Georgetown University Press 2000.

Gerald Miller: *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis*. (Taylor & Francis) London 2007.