

## Approval: 2<sup>nd</sup> Adhoc Senate Meeting

### **HS301 Policy Analysis and Advocacy Skills**

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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.

## Social Competence

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Here again, you have a choice of three courses.

**Principles of Economics:** How do nations generate wealth? How does the state regulate its distribution to ensure reasonable standards of living for all? What is the impact of man's economic pursuit on environment and ecology? Is there a link between the prosperity of the developed nations and the massive poverty elsewhere? The course examines the economic principles that govern daily life; it traces the rise of consumerism from the barter economy of early societies to the casino capitalism of today. Field trips and surveys in the Himachal region shall complement your understanding.

**Understanding Society:** The course invites students to examine the unfolding forms and modes of human collective living from ancient to modern times. Students will also study the institutional framework as well as living conditions of humans across distinctive historical periods. Besides, they will investigate the impact of modern life in its various forms on the mind, on marriage, on family and its breakdown and of its significance for the future. They will attempt to comprehend diverse levels of stress in modern life and the solutions attempted, also economic factors and their psycho-social impact. Field trips to various tribal communities in Himachal Pradesh complement students' understanding.

**Political Science:** Why does Aristotle describe Politics as the Master Science? Just think how difficult it is for us to maintain peace and harmony in our homes! How much more difficult would it then be to keep a country of 1.2 billion to live in peace with one another? How are we to understand Aristotle's paradoxical assertion that "the evil in man makes society necessary but it is the good in man that makes society function." Field trips to local communities in the neighborhood make for understanding firsthand key issues in politics, law and governance.