

M.A./ M.Sc. TWO YEAR DEGREE PROGRAM
IV SEMESTER
Subject - Geography

Code of the Course	:	GEG9114S
Title of the Course	:	SEMINAR I – Electoral Studies in Geography
Qualification Level of the Course	:	NHEQF Level 6.5
Credit of the Course	:	04
Type of Course	:	Special Type – Seminar (SEM) course in Geography
Delivery Type of the Course	:	08 hours per week (@ 1 credit = 02 hours per week); 120 hours in one Semester. 08 hours = 02 contact hours (Classroom discussion) + 06 tutorials (Self reading research/ debate and discussion/ preparation for class discussion/ preparing response paper/ Term Paper)
Prerequisites	:	The student must have opted for courses relevant to the proposed research problem along with ‘Research Methodology’ and / or ‘Quantitative Methods in Geography’.
Objectives of the Course	:	This is an inter-disciplinary course aimed to enable the students to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire specialized knowledge about study of elections with a geographical perspective. • To provide exposure to the students to evolution of electoral geography as a sub-discipline, recent developments and contemporary field of enquiry. • Acquire advanced cognitive and technical skills to identify and analyse problems and issues associated with significant aspects of electoral geography. • Develop understanding of the developmental and political economy associated with the electoral phenomenon, the underlying geographical factors, and to carry out applied research and meaningful investigations to formulate

		evidence based solutions and capability to give policy input for electoral reforms with special reference to India.
Learning Outcome	:	<p><i>General outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue self-directed learning to upgrade one’s knowledge and research skills. • Read texts and research papers analytically. • Assess the reliability, relevance and applications of existing studies in context of emerging developments and issues. • Employ appropriate statistical, geospatial and other analytical tools and techniques. • Make judgement and take decisions regarding the adoption of theoretical approaches to real world problems, based on analysis and evaluation of information and empirical/ secondary evidences. • Develop a keen sense of enquiry, observation and capability to formulate relevant questions. • Develop communication skills – discussion as well as writing - on identified themes with ability of critical analysis and focussed debates. <p><i>Course specific outcomes:</i></p> <p>The Course will enable the students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and pursue meaningful research in the recently evolved sub-discipline of electoral geography. • Understand voting behaviour and electoral processes, and various approaches to analysis of elections with a geographical perspective. • Expose the students to the intricate inter-relationship between geographical patterns of electoral phenomenon, social welfare and development. • Understand the process of delimitation and critically analyse the impact of layout of electoral boundaries on human geography. • Debate the existing processes influencing the geography of voting behaviour, political representation and socio-economic welfare, and deliberate on possibilities of electoral reforms.

Course requirements	:	1.	In order to successfully complete the course as prescribed in the curriculum the student shall have to comply with the requirements laid down below.
		2.	<p>The Curriculum is divided in 05 Units with 03 sections each. The curriculum comprises of three types of readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <i>Basic readings.</i> Books which the students will have to go through compulsorily to the extent of content of the mandatory readings. (ii) <i>Mandatory readings;</i> Each section has mandatory readings which are mainly research papers and books. The student is required to make in-depth study of all the mandatory readings compulsorily. (iii) <i>Suggested readings:</i> These are research publications which the student may go through in order to further their understanding of related aspects of Electoral Geography.
		3.	The students will have to participate in all class activities as given in Point No. 4 actively and regularly.
Pedagogical method		4.	<p>The Course shall run in a seminar style. Each week the students shall have to go through the <i>mandatory reading</i> on their own before the class. The class activity will comprise of the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <i>Introduction</i> : The teacher will provide a brief background of the key concepts of the section. (ii) <i>Discussion</i> : One of the students will share a brief comment on his/ her understanding of the reading with other students and the teacher, followed by class discussion. The students may support their view with newspaper/ magazine articles, other research publications, videos etc. The students may also submit a <i>question</i> along with a brief justification to the teacher. (iii) <i>Group activity</i> : The students may be asked to carry out a group exercise etc. to further enhance their understanding of the concept. <p>Collective reading may be undertaken followed by discussion on the core issues being addressed in the paper, the methods and tools employed in the study, the relevance and implications of the study for Indian electoral landscape, possible directions of research in</p>

		<p>India etc..</p> <p>(iv) <i>Response paper</i> : The students will write a short note of about 200-300 words to reflect on readings assigned to them, topics undertaken during class discussions or questions posed by the teacher.</p> <p>(v) <i>Term Paper</i> : This will be a research paper of approximately 4000 – 5000 words written on a topic of their choice relating to theme of the prescribed readings.</p> <p>The introduction and discussion will be undertaken during the 02 contact hours.</p> <p>The remaining activities will be completed by the students on their own during the 06 tutorial hours.</p>
	5	Syllabus
Unit I		Nature & Approaches in Electoral Geography
		<i>Mandatory Readings</i>
	(1)	Dikshit R.D. (1995). <i>Geography of Elections: The Indian Context (Ed.)</i> , Rawat Publications. (Selected readings)
	(2)	Jalan S. (2009). Electoral Geography and Potential Areas of Research in India. <i>The Geographer</i> , Official Journal of Geographical Society, 56 (2), pp. 14-26
		<i>Suggested Readings</i>
	(1)	Barney W. & Leib J. (2016). <i>Revitalizing Electoral Geography (Ed.)</i> , Routledge (Selected readings)
Unit II		The Geography of Voting Behaviour
		<i>Mandatory Readings</i>
	(1)	Dikshit, R.D. and Sharma, V., 1993. Voting preferences in State vis-à-vis National Elections under a federal system : A case study of Haryana. <i>Transactions of Institute of Indian Geographers</i> , 15 (1), 51-70
	(2)	Das Gupta, B. and Morris-Jones, W.H., 1975. <i>Patterns and Trends in Indian Politics : An Ecological Analysis of Aggregate Data on Society and Elections</i> . Allied Publishers, Delhi (Selected readings)
	(3)	Grofman B., Koetzle, W. and Brunell, T., 1997. An integrated

		perspective on the three potential sources of partisan bias: malapportionment, turnout differences and geographic distribution of party vote shares. <i>Electoral Studies</i> , 16 (4), 457-469.
		<i>Suggested Readings</i>
	(1)	Busteed M.A., (1975). <i>Geography and Voting Behavior</i> , Oxford University Press, London
UNIT III		Philosophy and Process of Delimitation, Electoral Abuse
		<i>Mandatory Readings</i>
	(1)	Handley Lisa. 2008. Comparative survey of structures and criteria for boundary delimitation, <i>Redistricting in Comparative Perspective (Ed.)</i> , Oxford University Press, 265-282
	(2)	Singh C.P., (2000). A century of constituency delimitation in India, <i>Political Geography</i> , Vol. 19, pp. 517-532
	(3)	McMillan Alistair (2000). Delimitation, democracy, and end of constitutional freeze. <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> . Vol. 35 (15), pp. 1271-1276.
		<i>Suggested Readings</i>
	(1)	McMillan Alistair, 2002. Changing the boundaries of Indian democracy. Accessible online at www.nuff.ox.ac.uk/users.mcmillan/delim/delim2 .
	(2)	Jha, Nagesh (1963). Delimitation of constituencies: A plea for some effective criteria. <i>Indian Journal of Political Science</i> , 24, 129-47
	(3)	<i>Changing Face of Electoral India: Delimitation 2008</i> , Vol. I & II, Delimitation Commission of India, New Delhi.
UNIT IV		Geography of Representation and Social Welfare – Reservation for Marginalised Groups
		<i>Mandatory Readings</i>
	(1)	Jalan, S., 2019. Electoral delimitation and geography of representation in reserved constituencies of Rajasthan: A study in social GIS. <i>The Indian Geographical Journal</i> , 94 (1), 75-90
	(2)	Galanter Marc, 1979. Compensatory discrimination in political representation: A preliminary assessment of India's

		thirty year experience with reserved seats in legislatures. <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> , Annual Number (February), 437 – 454.
	(3)	Jensenius Francesca Refsum (2015). Development from representation? A study of quotas for the scheduled castes in India. <i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics</i> , Vol. 7, pp 196-220.
		<i>Suggested Readings</i>
	(1)	Jensenius Francesca R. (2017). <i>Social Justice Through Inclusion: Consequences of Electoral Quotas in India</i> . Oxford University Press
UNIT V		Dynamics of Electoral System in India
		<i>Mandatory Readings</i>
	(13)	Decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court in <i>Association for Democratic Reforms & Anr. Versus Union of India & Ors., 2024</i>
	(14)	<i>High Level Committee Report on Simultaneous Elections in India, 2024</i> accessible online at https://onoe.gov.in/HLC-Report-en#flipbook-df_manual_book/1
		<i>Suggested Readings</i>
	(15)	The Constitution (106th Amendment) Act or Women's Reservation Act, 2023
		Basic Readings
	(1)	Taylor P.J. and Johnston R.J. (2015). <i>Geography of Elections</i> , Routledge
	(2)	Alam M.S. & Sivaramakrishnan K.C. (2015). <i>Fixing Electoral Boundaries in India : Laws, Processes, Outcomes and Implications for Political Representation (Ed.)</i> , Oxford University Press
	6.	Documentary Requirements for Evaluation
		There are two major requirements : (i) Response papers (ii) Term Paper
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student has to write five <i>response papers</i> – one from each Unit - on the topic assigned by the teaching faculty.

		<p>The response paper should be about 200 – 300 words in length. The topics given for response paper must align with the discussions made in the class. Group activity may be held in the class for further discussion/ debate on the response papers. The schedule of preparation and submission of response papers must coincide with the progress of the Course.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One <i>Term Paper</i> will be submitted at the end of the semester. The exact date of submission shall be notified by the Head of the Department. • The term paper should be 4000 - 5000 words (10 pages) in length. The students may select the topic on their own but within the scope of the Course. It is expected that the selected problem be drawn out of the discussions undertaken in the class. • It may be a critical analysis of a particular selected aspect or a research based outcome of a selected problem.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The term paper shall be submitted in soft (*.pdf) as well as 02 spiral bound hard copies as per the schedule notified by the Department. • It shall be printed on both sides of the page. • It may be written in Hindi or English. • It must be duly signed by the teaching faculty. • Plagiarism report will be compulsorily attached. The software prescribed by the University will be used for checking plagiarism. <p>The order of the components of the term paper shall be as under :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First page 2. Abstract / Preface 3. Main Body of the Paper 4. References (No Bibliography) 5. Plagiarism Report <p>The <i>first page</i> should specify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Programme & Semester details (ii) Course details (iii) Title of the Term Paper

		<p>(iv) Name & roll no./ enrolment no. of the student</p> <p>(v) Name and affiliation of the teaching faculty</p>
Evaluation Scheme	:	The evaluation will be for a total of 100 marks based on two components:
	1.	<p>Internal Assessment (IA) (20 marks)</p> <p>(i) The Internal Assessment will be made on the basis of class participation (in discussions and group activity), regularity and response papers.</p> <p>(ii) The Response Papers will have to be submitted as per the schedule laid down by the teaching faculty. The same will be evaluated for the quality and adequacy of content.</p> <p>(iii) The concerned teacher shall award the internal marks out of 20.</p> <p>(iv) Distribution of marks shall be as under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response papers : 05 papers @ 3 marks = 15 marks • Regularity and class participation: 05 marks
	2.	<p>End of Semester evaluation (EoS) (80 marks)</p> <p>EoS evaluation will be based on the final <i>Term Paper</i> and will be made by a two member Panel of Examiners consisting of</p> <p>(i) External Examiner</p> <p>(ii) Teaching Faculty as Internal Examiner</p> <p>In case the concerned faculty is unavailable or unwilling to accept examinership for valid reasons, an Internal Examiner will be assigned for the purpose by the Head of the Department.</p>
	3.	<p>The evaluation shall be done and marks will be awarded out of 80 as per the following scheme :</p> <p>(1) Write Up : 40 marks</p> <p>(2) Written test paper : 20 marks</p> <p>(3) Power Point Presentation & Viva – voce : 20 marks</p> <p>The student will make a presentation using power point slides and also defend his study in the Viva-voce before the Panel of Examiners on the day of examination. The Panel shall</p>

			evaluate the written test paper and the term paper on the same day.
		4.	<p>The written test paper will be descriptive with following structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05 short answer questions @ 02 marks each, and • 02 long answer questions @ 05 marks each.
			<p>In case of delay in submission of the response and term papers by a student, the evaluation process for other students shall be completed. The entire responsibility of disruption and delay in evaluation for the defaulter student and consequent penalty as per University norms shall lie on the student himself. Once the evaluation of other students is completed and the defaulter student fails to submit his work, he/she shall be marked 'absent' in the IA/EoS.</p>