

UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
Core Course in POLITICAL SCIENCE
for the students of BA Degree Programme in Political Science under CBCSS

SYLLABUS

Semester: 1 Type of course: **Core**
Course Code: **PS1141** Course Name: **Methodology & Perspectives of Social Sciences**
Instruction Hours/Week: **6** Number of credits: **4**

Aim of the Course

The course intends to familiarize the students with the broad contours of Social Sciences and their methodology.

Objectives of the course

- Identify the main concerns of social science disciplines.
- Articulate the basic terminology and theories prevalent across disciplines.
- Understand qualitative and quantitative models within the social sciences.
- To learn to apply the methods and theories of social science to contemporary issues
- Critically read popular and periodical literature from a social science perspective.

MODULE I - Introduction to Social Sciences
- Definition - Emergence of Social Sciences –
Problem solving nature of Social Sciences

An analysis of the disciplines that make up the Social Sciences with particular emphasis on their interrelationships. A study of source materials and library techniques as well as methods employed by social scientists. Relevance of the Social Sciences to understanding and solving contemporary problems at the regional, national and global levels. Discussion of basic principles and concepts-
Basic epistemology of Social Sciences

MODULE II - Interdisciplinary Approach in Social Sciences – Relevance
- Interdisciplinary perspectives– Areas of Inter-relationships and divergences

MODULE III - Research Design – Meaning and Structure of research Design

MODULE IV - Objectivity in Social Sciences
- Challenges of Objectivity
- Problem of selection of tools and techniques
- Bias as a limitation
- The question of research ethics and plagiarism

BOOKS

1. Hunt, Elgin F, "Social Science and its Methods", in Social Science an Introduction to the Study of Society, Allyn and Bacon, 2008
2. Perry, John, "Through the Lens of Science", in Contemporary Society: an Introduction to social Science, Allyn and Bacon, 2009
3. Porta, Donatella della and Michael Keating, Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences: A Pluralistic Perspective, Cambridge University Press, Delhi, 2008, pp.19-38
4. Perry, John, "Through the Lens of Science", in Contemporary Society: an Introduction to Social Science, Allyn and Bacon, 2009
5. Natraj, V. K, et.al, "Social Science: Dialogue for Revival", Economic and Political Weekly, August 18, 2001, pp.3128-3133.
6. Weber, Max, "Objectivity in Social Science and Social Policy" in Mark J Smith(ed.), Philosophy and Methodology of Social Sciences, Vol.II, Sage Publications, New Delhi,

2005, pp.3-49

7. Nagel, Ernest, “Problems of Concept and Theory Formation in the Social Sciences”, *ibid*, pp.301-319
8. Martin Hollis, *The Philosophy of Social Science: An Introduction*, Cambridge University Press, 2000.

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