

SEMESTER -II

DSC-2: Constitutional Government in India

Course Objectives:

1. To enable students to know the constitutional design of government and political institutions in India.
2. To relate such institutions to the ideals of liberty, equality and justice, and to the process of decentralization and federalism, development and democracy, on which the constitutional democracy in India is visualized.
3. To encourage students to see how institutional practices and constitutional design are impacted by the political contexts within which they unfold.
4. To develop the ability to comprehend the relationships between constitutionalism, democracy and governance.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of the course, students will develop:

1. Understanding the specificities of Indian Constitutionalism.
2. Familiarity with the issues concerning constitutional architecture, institutional design and practice of constitutional democracy.
3. Awareness of the ways in which the government/s functions through its various organs at various levels.
4. Understanding of the division of power between various organs of the government.

Module I

1. Evolution of the Indian Constitution. Role of Constituent Assembly--- debates (overview). Preamble.
2. Citizenship. Fundamental Rights and Duties. Directive Principles.
3. Nature of Indian Federalism: Union-State Relations.
4. Union Executive: President, Vice-President: Election, Position, Functions (focus on Emergency Powers), Prime Minister, Council of Ministers, Relationship of Prime Minister and President.

Module II

5. Union Legislature: Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha: Organisation, Functions – Lawmaking procedure, Parliamentary procedure, Privileges, Committee System. Speaker.
6. Government in states: Governor, Chief Minister and Council of Ministers: position and functions – State Legislature: Composition and Functions.
7. Judiciary: Supreme Court and the High Courts: composition and functions – Judicial activism.
8. Constitutional Amendment.

Select Readings:

Constitution of India: Government of India.

G. Austin: The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation.

G. Austin: Working a Democratic Constitution

S.K. Chaube: The Constituent Assembly--- Springboard of a Revolution (latest edition).

M.V. Pylee: India's Constitution.

S.C. Kashyap ed.: Perspectives on the Constitution.

R. Bhargava (ed.): Politics and Ethics of the Indian Constitution.

D. D. Basu: Introduction to the Constitution of India.

S. K. Chaube: The Making and Working of the Indian Constitution.

B. Shankar and V. Rodrigues: The Indian Parliament: A Democracy at Work P. B. Mehta and N. Jayal (eds.): The

Oxford Companion to Politics in India. D. Kapur and P. B. Mehta (eds.): Public Institutions in India.

B. Kirpal et.al (eds.): Supreme but not Infallible: Essays in Honour of the Supreme Court of India.

B. Arora and D. Verney (eds.): Multiple Identities in a Single State: Indian Federalism in a Comparative Perspective.

ভারতীয় সংবিধান (বাংলা সংস্করণ)

দুর্গাদাস বসু - ভারতের সংবিধান পরিচয়

সুভাষসি কাশ্যপ - আমাদের সংবিধান (অনুবাদঃ পার্থসরকার)

অমলকুমার মুখোপাধ্যায় - ভারতীয় সংবিধানের সহজ পাঠ

SEMESTER -III

DSC-3: Political Theory: Approaches and Debates

Course Objectives:

The idea behind the course is to go beyond the conceptual foundations and introduce the students to:

1. The idea of political theory, its history, and complementary and contending approaches
2. Linkages of theories and debates
3. Initiate them to assess the theories and debates critically

Learning Outcomes:

By going through the course the students will be able to:

1. Be theoretically equipped to explain and critically examine political questions, political events and political phenomena encountered
2. Reconcile political theory and practice through reflections on the ideas and practices of democracy.

Module I:

1. Normative; Legal-Institutional; Empirical-Behavioural---Systems Analysis; Structural Functionalism.
2. Liberalism; Social Welfarism; Neo-Liberalism.
3. Postcolonial; Feminist.

SEMESTER II

SEC-2 Understanding the Legal System

Course Objectives: This course design is intended to create:

1. A systemic perspective on an overarching framework for approaching law as a skill-based subject.
2. To focus on the enhancement of skill of ordinary persons to enable them to utilize legal knowledge in life.

Learning Outcomes: The programme is so designed as to:

1. Acquaint, train and equip students with a reasonable knowledge of the legal system.
2. Motivate the students to understand the principles, concepts and reason
3. Form own opinion and articulate them in the interest of society at large.

Module I

1. Historical background, Procedures of Supreme Court and High Court in India (special focus on writ jurisdictions), Judicial Activism and Judicial Restraint.
2. Public Interest Litigation (PIL): Meaning, Major features and Scope, Principles, Major Guidelines for admitting PIL.
3. Administrative Tribunals: Concepts and Major Features, Tribunals for other matters.

Module II

4. Subordinate Courts: Constitutional Provisions, Structure and Jurisdiction, National Legal Services Authority, Lok Adalats, Family Courts and Gram Nyayalayas.
5. Elections Laws: Representation of People Act 1950, Representation of People Act 1951, Delimitation Act 2002.
6. Other Constitutional Dimensions: Anti-defection Laws (major provisions of 91st Amendment Act, 2003), Co-operative Societies (provisions of 97th Amendment Act), Mahila Courts.

Select Readings:

- Kamala Sankaran and Ujjwal Singh eds.: *Creating Legal Awareness*.
 Asha Bajpai, *Child Rights in India: Law, Policy, and Practice*.
 B.L. Wadhera, *Public Interest Litigation - A Handbook*.
 P.C. Rao and William Sheffiled: *Alternate Dispute Resolution: What it is and how it Works*.
 M, Mohanty et al.: *Weapon of the Oppressed, Inventory of People's Rights in India*.
 Centre for Good Governance: *Right to Information Act, 2005: A Citizen's Guide*,
 K. Sankaran and U. Singh, *Towards Legal Literacy*.
 Oxford Handbook of Human Rights and Criminal Justice in India (relevant articles).