

1. Understand the entry points through which the *political* is interpreted
2. Understand the core concepts that guide the theorisation of politics
3. Understand how theory relates to practice.

Module I

1. Conceptualising the Political; Power and Authority.
2. State; Nation; Sovereignty.
3. Law; Liberty; Equality (interrelationships).

Module II

4. Rights; Justice (main focus on Rawls); Freedom.
5. Democracy (including classifications of David Held); Authoritarianism.
6. Political Obligation; Citizenship.

Select Readings:

- Bhargava, R. (2008) 'What is Political Theory' in Bhargava, R and Acharya, A. (eds.) Political Theory: An Introduction. pp. 2-16.
 Andrew Heywood: The Basic Political Concepts.
 S. Ramaswamy: Political Theory--- Ideas and Concepts.
 Menon, Krishna. (2008) 'Justice', in Bhargava, Rajeev and Acharya, Ashok. (eds.) Political Theory: An Introduction, pp. 74-86.
 N. Daniels: Reading Rawls.
 J. Mandle: Rawls's Theory of Justice: An Introduction
 R. Bellamy: Theories and Concepts in Politics: An Introduction.
 D. Held: Models of Democracy.
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SEMESTER II/IV

MPLS - MN -2 & MPLS – MN-4 TH +TU

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)

দূর্গাদাস বসু: ভারতের সংবিধান পরিচয়

সুভাষসিকশ্যপ: আমাদের সংবিধান (অনুবাদ: পার্থসরকার)

অমল কুমার মুখোপাধ্যায়: ভারতীয় সংবিধানের সহজ পাঠ