

COTTON COLLEGE STATE UNIVERSITY

Panbazar, Guwahati-781001, Assam, India

Course Number: ICL101CMP

Course Name: Indian Constitution and Basic Laws

Credits: 2+0+0 (L+T+P)

Total number of Lectures: 32

Target Audience- UG 6th Semester (BA and BSc), CCSU

Course Goal: This course aims to make the students aware of the basic State structures and institutions, and their interactions with democracy. The Constitution is a living document, and this course besides examining the basic features and concepts embedded in the Constitution such as liberty, equality, fraternity, justice, federalism, sovereignty, will also examine changes as it responds to social and political processes. It will also introduce students to some of the basic laws. There is no specific pre-requisite for this course and may be taken at either the Undergraduate or Post-graduate levels.

Module I: The Constituent Assembly and the Constitution (8 Lectures)

- i. A historical perspective on the formation of the Constituent Assembly and framing of the Constitution (2 Lectures);
- ii. Philosophy of the Constitution, the Preamble and Basic Feature of the Constitution (3 Lectures);
- iii. Fundamental Rights and Duties, Directive Principles, Civil Liberties (3 Lectures).

Module 2: Organs of Governance (12 Lectures)

This Module besides introducing the students to the different organs will also highlight the separation of powers to have checks and balances in the system.

- i. The Legislature: Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) (4 lectures) ;
- ii. The Executive: President, Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (4 lectures) ;
- iii. The Judiciary: Supreme Court, High Courts, the integrated judicial system and the role of the judiciary (4 lectures).

Module 3: Federalism, Centre-State relations and Decentralization (9 Lectures)

This Module will introduce the students to the working of the India's federal structure.

- i. Federalism: Division of powers between the Centre and States (3 lectures) ;
- ii. Legislative and Administrative structure of States: Governor, Chief Minister and Council of Ministers; Legislative Assemblies (3 lectures) ;
- iii. Municipalities and Panchayati Raj (3 lectures).

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Module 4: Basic Laws

(3 Lectures)

- i. Civil and Criminal cases;
- ii. Indian Penal Code, and Code of Criminal Procedure.

Recommended Readings

1. Austin, Granville (1999): *Selected Chapters in Working a Democratic Constitution - A History of the Indian Experience* (Oxford: OUP).
2. Austin, Granville (2010): *'The Constituent Assembly: Microcosm in Action'*, in *The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 15th print, pp.1-25.
3. Basu, D (2012): *Introduction to the Constitution of India*, New Delhi: Lexis Nexis.
4. Baxi, U. (2010) *'The Judiciary as a Resource for Indian Democracy'*, Seminar, Issue 615, pp. 61-67.
5. Brass, P (1992): *The Politics in India since Independence*, New York: CUP.
6. Chaube, S. (2009): *The Making and Working of the Indian Constitution*, New Delhi: National Book Trust
7. Kashyap, S. (1992): *Our Constitution*; New Delhi: National Book Trust
8. Kashyap, Subhash C. (1995): *Selected Chapters in Perspectives on Constitution* (Delhi: Shipra Publishers).
9. Kapur, Devesh and Mehta, Pratap Bhanu ed. (2005): *"The Indian Parliament", "India's Judiciary: The Promise of Uncertainty" in Public Institutions in India: Performance and Design* (New Delhi: OUP) pp. 77- 102, 158-193.
10. Kohli, Atul (2001) ed.; *The Success of India's Democracy*; (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)
11. Constituent Assembly Debates (Proceedings)
<http://parliamentofindia.nic.in/ls/debates/debates.htm>:
12. Sarkar, Sumit (2001): *Indian Democracy: The Historical Inheritance*; in *The Success of India's Democracy*, ed. Atul Kohli, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) pp. 23-46