

Ambedkar University, Delhi

Title of the Course: Indian Constitution and Democracy

Name of the School:: School of Undergraduate Studies

Level at which the course can be offered: Undergraduate level (To be offered as Foundational Elective)

Course Instructor : Priyanka Jha

This course tries to bridge the gap between institutions and people; it tries to weave as to what is said theoretically in the Constitution and what people can experience as citizens of a democratic country. This course will be useful for students in getting an understanding of Indian Constitution and facets of democracy. It shall help them comprehend the political and social life of India. The course aims at developing a basic understanding of Indian political structures and its interactions with democracy. The Course shall focus on the evolution and features of the Indian Constitution. It discusses Constitutional practices through roles, functions, checks and balances of the national and federal Government.

Topics

The Constituent Assembly and the Constitution

Features of the Constitution

Separation of Power

Indian Judiciary

Federalism and Centre-State Relations

Grassroots Democracy

Suggested Readings:

Austin, Granville (1999): Selected Chapters in *Working a Democratic Constitution- A History of the Indian Experience* (Oxford: OUP).

Chakrabarty, Bidyut and Pandey, Rajendra Kumar (2008): “Executive System in Theory and Practice”, “Parliament”, “The Judiciary” and “Federalism” in *Indian Government and Politics* (New Delhi: Sage) 55-106, 129-163, 35-51.

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) 77-102, 158-193.

Kashyap, Subhash C. (1995): Selected Chapters in *Perspectives on Constitution* (Delhi: Shipra Publishers).

Praveen Priyadarshi ed., *Contemporary India: Economy, Society, Politics* (New Delhi: Pearson Publication) 184 – 211.

Assessment methodology: The course will have three assessments

1. Mid Semester Exam - 40%
2. Class Presentation - 20%
3. End Semester Exam - 40%