

INTRODUCTION TO CONSTITUTION

(TWO CREDITS)

Course Objectives: This course introduces students to the Constitution of India. The Constitution, being supreme law of the land, must be known to every citizen of India. It begins with the Preamble, which indicates the source and objects of it. We, the people of India, are the source of the Constitution and have resolved to constitute India into a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic and republic. The Course has been designed for everyone to make acquaint themselves with their fundamental rights and of others. No right is absolute one; it is subject to others right, as well. Directive Principles of State Policy are nothing but rights, though not enforceable by any court. These Directive Principles are basically 'Fundamental Principles' in the governance of the country. Powers and freedoms come with responsibility, State's responsibility to implement Directive Principles and citizens must perform their duties towards others, society and nation.

Expected Course Outcomes:

To introduce the philosophy of Constitution of India to students.
To acquaint them with their freedoms and responsibilities.

UNIT 1: PHILOSOPHY OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION (5 Hours)

- a) Constitutional History of India
- b) Role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Constituent Assembly
- c) Preamble – Source and Objects
- d) Sovereign and Republic
- e) Socialist and Secular
- f) Democratic – Social and Economic Democracy
- g) Justice – Social, Economic and Political
- h) Liberty – Thought, Expression, Belief, Faith and Worship
- i) Equality – Status and Opportunity
- j) Fraternity, Human Dignity, Unity and Integrity of the Nation

UNIT 2: FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (10 Hours)

- a) Right to equality
- b) Right to freedoms
- c) Right against exploitation
- d) Right to freedom of religion
- e) Cultural and educational rights
- f) Right to property
- g) Right to constitutional remedies

UNIT 3: DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY (10 Hours)

- a) Equal Justice and free legal aid
- b) Right to work and provisions for just and humane conditions of work
- c) Provision for early childhood, Right to education and SC,ST, weaker section
- d) Uniform Civil Code
- e) Standard of Living, nutrition and public health
- f) Protection and improvement of environment
- g) Separation of Judiciary from executive
- h) Promotion of International peace and security

UNIT 4: FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES (5 Hours)

- a) Duty to abide by the Constitution
- b) Duty to cherish and follow the noble ideals
- c) Duty to defend the country and render national service
- d) Duty to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture
- e) Duty to develop scientific temper, humanism, the spirit of inquiry & reform
- f) Duty to safeguard public property and abjure violence
- g) Duty to strive towards excellence

Text/Reference Books:

- a) D. D. Basu, Introduction to the Constitution of India, LexisNexis
- b) Granville Austin, The Constitution of India: Cornerstone of a Nation, Oxford University Press
- c) Subhash Kashyap, Our Constitution, National Book Trust
- d) M.P. Jain, Indian Constitutional Law, LexisNexis