



GP-EM-LAPO-7278

Law and Policy

MAPP 2024 and MAPP 2025

Course Information

Course Duration: Feb – May 2026
Credit Hours: 3 hours per week
Class timings: TBD
Meetings with students: 2 hours per week
Location: TBD
Prerequisites: None

Instructor Information

Instructor: Zara Hasnain
Biography: <https://jgu.edu.in/jsgp/faculty/zara-hasnain>
Email: zara.hasnain@jgu.edu.in
Phone: 9599018908
Office: 11B, Ground Floor South Block, Old Student Housing block
Office hours: TBD

Co-Instructor: Sudarshan Ramaswamy
Biography: <https://jgu.edu.in/jsgp/prof-sudarshan-ramaswamy/>
Email: rsudarshan@jgu.edu.in
Office: FOB
Office hours: TBD

1. Course Description

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the Indian government structure through the lens of the Constitution of India. It begins with foundational concepts, including an introduction to the Constitution, the Parliament, federalism, local governance, the Supreme Court, and the Election Commission. Recognizing that students may come from diverse backgrounds, the course aims to equip them with essential knowledge to effectively engage in discussions on law and policy.

The course delves into law's role in shaping policy and governance in India. It examines how the judicial machinery, comprising courts and law enforcement agencies, has historically dispensed justice. The judiciary has played a pivotal role in enforcing constitutional rights, checking legislative and executive powers, and occasionally enacting laws when Parliament has faltered.

Students will gain insight into India's complex legal system and its social justice and governance implications.

2. Course Intended Learning Objectives (Aim)

Course Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Activities	Assessments/ Activities
Students will be familiar with fundamental institutions of governance in India	Interactive Lectures- Concept Mapping and discussions	Mock parliament or real-life case study analysis
Students will gain a firm understanding of the need for separation of powers and the political influence on the judicial system.	The lecture focuses on the conceptual framework and then facilitates class discussions.	Policy Analysis: Students analyze recent legislation that may have implications for judicial independence.

3. Scheme of Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation breakup

No	Activity	Weightage (out of 100)
1	The Internal Assessment – <ul style="list-style-type: none">Classroom participation and attendance (10%) Students will be observed in the class and graded based on their meaningful in-class participation and discussion on issues related to the topic as well as the assigned readings weekly.In-class presentation (20%)	50% (50 marks)

	<p>Students will be required to give a professional 30-minute presentation on any of the topics covered in the course. The presentation proposal should be submitted by 7th March 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Exercise (20%) Students will be required to analyze a policy that has transformed into law. 	
2	The external assessment will comprise of an in-class examination held during the final examination week of the University.	50% (50 marks)

Grade Definition As per JS GP.

4. Academic Integrity

Academic Honesty, Cheating, and Plagiarism: As per University policy. All papers and presentations are an individual effort. Unless specified, you are strongly recommended to do your own work.

Participation/Attendance Policy: As per University policy. You are required to have a minimum of 75% attendance to be able to obtain a “no-bar” status for this course. You will receive an attendance only if you attend the entire class. Please refrain from coming up with any excuse for a late show-up in the class.

Use of phone/ texting/ laptop: Students are required not to use phones in the class until asked by the instructors. Students can use the laptop for writing class notes.

5. Keyword Syllabus: Law, Governance, Courts, Institutions, Government, Justice, Policy

6. Course Material

Books: We will use the following books during the semester.

Gerald N. Rosenberg, Sudhir Krishnaswamy and Shishir Bail, eds., *A Qualified Hope- The Indian Supreme Court and Progressive Social Change*, Cambridge University Press, 2019

Granville Austin, *The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1966).

Keith E. Whittington, R. Daniel Keleman, and Gregory A. Calderia, *The Oxford Handbook of Law and Politics* (2010)

Madhav Khosla's *The Indian Constitution, Oxford India Short Introductions* (2012).

Mehta, Uday Singh. "Constitutionalism." *The Oxford companion to politics in India* (2010)

R Sudarshan, Courts and social transformation in India, (2006)

Rajesh Chakrabarti and Kushiki Sanyal, *Public Policy In Introduction*, Oxford India Short Introductions (2016)

Subrata Mehta & Make Pehl. "Federalism." *The Oxford Companion to Politics in India* (2010)

Sujit Choudhary, *The Oxford Handbook of the Indian Constitution* (2016)

Zoya Hasan, E. Sridharan and R. Sudarshan, eds., *India's Living Constitution: Ideas, Practices, Controversies*, New Delhi, London: Anthem Press, 2005.

7. Session Plan

Session (with Date)	General Topic	Readings	Approach/Pedagogy
Week 1 (2 Feb -8 Feb)	Introduction and Relevance of Law to Policy Different types of Law	Rajesh Chakrabarti and Kushiki Sanyal, <i>Public Policy In Introduction</i>	Lecture
Week 2 (9 Feb- 15 Feb)	Who can make laws? Lawmaking in federal polity	Subrata Mehta & Make Pehl. "Federalism." <i>The Oxford Companion to Politics in India</i> (2010): 43-60.	Lecture
Week 3 (16 Feb- 22 Feb)	Distribution of legislative authorities What is constitutionalism?, Limits the power of the government	Mehta, Uday Singh. "Constitutionalism." <i>The Oxford companion to politics in India</i> (2010): 15-27.	Lecture
Week 4 (23 Feb- 28 Feb)	Fundamental Rights	Madhav Khosla's <i>The Indian Constitution, Oxford India Short Introductions</i> (2012).	Lecture
Week 5 (2 nd March- 8 th March)	Directive Principles of State Policy	Madhav Khosla's <i>The Indian Constitution, Oxford India Short Introductions</i> (2012).	Lecture
Week 6 (9 th -15 th March)	Executive government at the state and local level 73 rd and 74 th Amendment	Granville Austin, <i>The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation</i> (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1966).	Lecture
Week 7 (16 th -22 nd March)	Concept of judicial review	Sujit Choudhary, <i>The Oxford Handbook of the Indian Constitution</i> (2016)	Case study

Week 8 (23 rd March- 29 th March)	The basic structure of the Constitution	Keith E. Whittington, R. Daniel Keleman, and Gregory A. Calderia, <i>The Oxford Handbook of Law and Politics</i> (2010)	Case study
Week 9 (30 th March - 5 th April)	Policy Making by Judiciary Article 32, 226 Judicializing Politics	Sudarshan R (2006) Courts and Social Transformation, article on PIL and the rule of courts	Case study
Week 10 (6 th April- 12 th April)	Politicizing Judiciary	Sudarshan R (2006) Courts and Social Transformation, article on PIL and the rule of courts	Lecture
Week 11 (13 th April- 19 th April)	Public Interest Litigation	Sudarshan R (2006) Courts and Social Transformation, article on PIL and the rule of courts	Lecture
Week 12 (20 th April- 26 th April)	Conflicts between the executive, legislative, and judiciary over policy	Zoya Hasan, E. Sridharan and R. Sudarshan, eds., <i>India's Living Constitution: Ideas, Practices, Controversies</i> , New Delhi, London: Anthem Press, 2005.	Lecture
Week 13 (27 st April- 3 rd May)	The Supreme Court	Gerald N. Rosenberg, Sudhir Krishnaswamy and Shishir Bail, eds., <i>A Qualified Hope- The Indian Supreme Court and Progressive Social Change</i> , Cambridge University Press, 2019	Lecture
Week 14 (4 th May- 10 th May)	Translating policy into law (Group Work)		Group Work
Week 15 (12 th May- 17 th May)	Discussion and Wrap-up		Discussion