

THE LITIGATOR'S TOOLKIT: DRAFTING, COMMUNICATION AND COURTROOM SKILLS

Responsible Faculty Instructor:

Aaliya Waziri

Visiting/Adjunct Faculty (Assistant Professor)

Credits: 3

Cross-registration: Yes

Pre-requisites: Only open to students who have completed modules on Civil Procedure Code, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam and the Arbitration & Conciliation Act.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (COURSE VISION):

This course is designed to bridge the persistent lacunae between classroom learning and courtroom practice by equipping students with the practical, procedural, and soft skills that empower them to pursue litigation in India. Structured across three verticals—Civil Litigation, Criminal Litigation, and Arbitration — the course provides a comprehensive, practice-oriented understanding of procedural law, legal drafting, and advocacy.

Students will gain hands-on experience in preparing pleadings and procedural documents including but not limited to writ petitions, rejoinders, interim relief applications, affidavits, written statements, and legal opinions. The focus will be on developing clarity, structure, and legal reasoning in writing—ensuring that students learn not only *how* to draft but also *why* each document serves a specific, prudent purpose in litigation.

In addition to technical drafting, the course emphasises the soft skills of litigation, including persuasive argumentation, professional courtroom etiquette, client communication, and critical reasoning. Through a blend of analytical exercises, simulated proceedings, and peer critique, students will learn to navigate complex legal problems and articulate coherent, strategic responses.

In essence, this course aims to encourage students inclined towards litigation, but encumbered by its daunting nature, with professional

awareness, and tactical insights on the transition from law school to ground realities of litigation practice in India.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

This course follows a seminar-based learning model emphasising discussion, simulation, and aims to incorporate the following:

- Case Study Analysis of landmark civil, criminal, and arbitration decisions to understand procedural reasoning and drafting strategy.
- Applied Drafting Workshops focused on pleadings aimed at inculcating precision and structure.
- Analytical Exercises to develop logical reasoning and writing skills.
- Collaborative Review and Peer Critique sessions to refine style, coherence, and professionalism.
- Guest Lectures by Practicing Lawyers and Judges providing exposure to real-world litigation strategy, courtroom conduct, and ethical challenges.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Draft, review, and refine key litigation documents with clarity, precision, and strategic coherence.
2. Apply principles of procedural and substantive law to real-world scenarios, identifying appropriate remedies and reliefs.
3. Analyse and evaluate judicial reasoning, pleadings, and procedural strategies in landmark decisions to develop a nuanced understanding of litigation practice.
4. Develop the ability to construct methodically drafted legal arguments and articulate it effectively - through both written and oral advocacy.
5. Integrate ethical reasoning, professional judgment, and practical insight into the preparation and presentation of legal documents and opinions.

WEEKLY READING PLAN (WEEKLY OUTLINE):

A weekly plan and reading list will be provided in the course manual closer to the start of the elective date.