

## History UG

<b>Semester: 6</b>				
<b>Programme : History</b>				
<b>Course :</b> Constitutional History of India from the Colonial to the Post Colonial times (1765-1975): Acts, Laws and Provisions				
<b>Paper code:</b> C3HS230621T			<b>Credits: 4</b>	
<b>Hours/week : 4</b>				
<b>Category:</b> Core/MDC/SEC/VAC : Core (Major)				
<b>Theory / Practical / Composite :</b> Theory				
<b>No of Modules : 2</b>				
<p><b>Course Overview:</b> This syllabus traces the legal and constitutional evolution of modern India, beginning with the East India Company's transition from a trading entity to a sovereign power. It examines the structural foundations laid by British parliamentary acts and the subsequent social legislations aimed at reforming traditional Indian practices. The course then pivots to the colonial state's consolidation under the British Crown, highlighting the legislative milestones that eventually led to independence. Finally, it explores the post-colonial era, focusing on the democratization of Indian law through the Constitution and significant social reforms. Students will conclude by analyzing the resilience of Indian democracy during the constitutional crises of the mid-1970s.</p>				
<b>Course Outcome:</b>				
1. Identify the key provisions of various laws, acts and legal developments				
2. Explain the shift in administrative authority from the East India Company to the British Crown following the Government of India Act of 1858.				
3. Illustrate how colonial "Specific Acts," such as the Arms Act and Press Act, were used as tools of political control over the Indian population.				
4. Compare and contrast the Hindu Code Bills with previous colonial social legislations to identify shifts in the approach toward personal law and gender rights.				
5. Assess the impact of the 42nd and 44th Amendments on the balance of power between the judiciary and the executive during and after the Emergency.				
6. Formulate a structured argument regarding the continuity or rupture between British colonial institutional structures and the final Constitution of India.				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> <i>Basic knowledge about any prior course</i>				
<b>SYLLABUS</b>				
UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL
I.	UNIT 1 Introduction to British Rule in India: Establishment and expansion of East India Company Rule: Regulating Act of 1773, The	18	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	KI,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6

	<p>Pitt's India Act of 1784, Cornwallis Code and the Permanent Settlement, The Charter Acts: 1813, 1833, 1853 Consolidation of the Legal and Institutional structure</p>			
	<p>UNIT 2 Social Legislations: Sati Regulation Act (1829): Prohibiting the practice of Sati Widow Remarriage Act (1856): Permitting remarriage of Hindu widows Infanticide Act (1870): Prohibiting the practice of female infanticide Age of Consent Bill - 1891 Impact of British Rule on Indian Society</p>			
<b>II.</b>	<p>UNIT 1 Government of India Act of 1858: Transfer of power from British East India Company to British Crown Indian Councils Act: Indian Councils Act of 1861, Indian Councils Act of 1892, Indian Councils Act of 1909 Government of India Act of 1919 and 1935 Indian Independence Act of 1947: Granting independence to India Specific Acts that affected the people – Arms Act, Press Act, Rowlatt Acts etc. Tenancy Act, Rent Act and Caste Disabilities Removal Act</p>	<b>18</b>	<p><b>CO1</b> <b>CO2</b> <b>CO3</b> <b>CO4</b> <b>CO5</b> <b>CO6</b></p>	<p><b>K1,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6</b></p>
	<p>Unit 2 Making of the Constitution of India: Adoption and key features</p>			

	<p>Social and Economic Reforms : Laws passed by Indian Government Hindu Code Bills: Laws reforming Hindu personal law Special Marriage Act (1954): Permitting civil marriage Dowry Prohibition Act (1961): Prohibiting the practice of dowry The Emergency (1975-1977): Imposition of emergency and suspension of civil liberties Constitutional Crisis and the 42nd Amendment: Attempts to amend the Constitution and the subsequent crisis, the 44th Amendment.</p>			
<b>Text Books</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Anindita Mukhopadhyay, Behind the Mask</li> <li>2. Aparna Balachandran (et al) ed. , Iterations of Law: Legal Histories from India</li> <li>3. B B Misra, Central Administration of the East India Company, 1773–1834</li> <li>4. B B Misra, The Judicial Administration of the East India Company in Bengal, 1765–1782</li> <li>5. B B Misra, The Administrative History of India, 1834– 1947: General Administration</li> <li>6. D D Basu, The Constitution of India</li> <li>7. Leila Neti, Colonial Law in India and the Victorian Imagination</li> <li>8. Nancy Gardner Cassels, Social Legislation of the East India Company</li> <li>9. Radhika Singha, A Despotism of Law</li> <li>10. Rajeev Bhargava(ed), Politics and the ethics of the Indian Constitution</li> </ol>				
<b>Suggested readings</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Subhash C Kashyap, Our Constitution</li> <li>2. Gunnel Cederlof and Sanjukta Dasgupta eds. Subjects, Citizens and Law: Colonial and Independent India, Routledge, 2019.</li> <li>3. Anil Chandra Banerjee, The Constitutional History of India</li> <li>4. AB Keith, Constitutional History of India</li> </ol>				
<b>Web Resources</b>				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
<b>Evaluation : Theory</b>				

**CIA: 5 +Mid Sem: 20+ Attendance: 5 =30**  
**Semester Exam: 70**

**Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam:**

**Total Marks: 70**

**Two modules of 35 marks each.**

**3 questions of 5 marks from 5 options: 3X5=15**

**2 questions of 10 marks from 3 options: 2X10=20**

#### **Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping**

<b>COs</b>	<b>CO Description</b>	<b>Cognitive levels</b>
<b>CO1</b>	<b>Identify the key provisions of various laws, acts and legal developments</b>	<b>K1</b>
<b>CO2</b>	<b>Explain the shift in administrative authority from the East India Company to the British Crown following the Government of India Act of 1858.</b>	<b>K2</b>
<b>CO3</b>	<b>Illustrate how colonial "Specific Acts," such as the Arms Act and Press Act, were used as tools of political control over the Indian population.</b>	<b>K3</b>
<b>CO4</b>	<b>Compare and contrast the Hindu Code Bills with previous colonial social legislations to identify shifts in the approach toward personal law and gender rights.</b>	<b>K4</b>
<b>CO5</b>	<b>Assess the impact of the 42nd and 44th Amendments on the balance of power between the judiciary and the executive during and after the Emergency.</b>	<b>K5</b>
<b>CO6</b>	<b>Formulate a structured argument regarding the continuity or rupture between British colonial institutional structures and the final Constitution of India.</b>	<b>K6</b>