L. D. Arts College (Autonomous), Ahmedabad

Detailed Syllabus

Curriculum Designed for:	**Self-Finance Programme: UG**
Semester: 1	**Course Code: 112** **Course Title: Political Institutions and Governance**
Credits: 4	**Course Category: Major Course-2**

Course Objectives:

Number	Objective
Objective 1:	To introduce students to the foundational structure of constitutional governance.
Objective 2:	To explain the organisation and functions of the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.
Objective 3:	To develop an understanding of democratic institutional mechanisms.
Objective 4:	To analyse the functioning of constitutional organs in contemporary governance.
Objective 5:	To promote constitutional awareness and responsible citizenship.

Course Outcomes: On successful completion of the course, the learner will be able to

CO#	Cognitive Abilities	Course Outcomes
CO1	REMEMBERING	Explain the meaning, classification and importance of a Constitution.
CO2	UNDERSTANDING	Analyse the structure and functioning of the Legislature.
CO3	APPLYING	Compare the Parliamentary and Presidential systems of the Executive.
CO4	ANALYSING	Evaluate the role of the Judiciary in ensuring the rule of law and justice.
CO5	EVALUATING	Assess contemporary developments in constitutional governance and institutional accountability.

Course Contents:

Unit No.	Unit Contents	Sessions Allotted
1	**Unit 1: Constitution** • Meaning, Definition and Importance of the Constitution • Characteristics of an Ideal Constitution • Classification and Types of Constitutions • Constitutionalism and Modern Governance: Concept of Constitutionalism • Written vs Living Constitution • Basic Structure Doctrine (introductory reference to India)	15
2	**Unit 2: Legislature** • Meaning, Growth, Formation and Functions of the Legislature • Uni-Cameral and Bi-Cameral Legislature: Merits and Demerits • Procedure of Law Making • Contemporary Legislative Practices: Parliamentary Committees • Anti-Defection Law (basic understanding) • Role of Media and Public Opinion in Legislature	15
3	**Unit 3: Executive** • Meaning, Functions and Types of Executive • Parliamentary Executive: Characteristics, Merits and Demerits • Presidential Executive: Characteristics, Merits and Demerits • Changing Nature of Executive Authority: Cabinet System and Prime Ministerial Leadership (Indian context) • Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation • Executive Accountability Mechanisms	15
4	**Unit 4: Judiciary** • Principles of Justice; Meaning and Functions of the Judiciary • Rule of Law and Independence of Judiciary • Judicial Review and Judicial Activism • Judiciary in Contemporary Democracy: Public Interest Litigation (PIL) • E-Courts and Technology in Judicial Administration	15

Recommended References:

1. NCERT. Political Science Textbooks (Classes XI & XII). National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi.
2. GCERT. Political Science Textbooks (Higher Secondary Level). Gujarat Council of Educational Research and Training, Gandhinagar.
3. Basu, D. D. Introduction to the Constitution of India. LexisNexis.

4. Austin, Granville. Working a Democratic Constitution: The Indian Experience. Oxford University Press.
5. Jain, M. P. Indian Constitutional Law. LexisNexis.
6. Laxmikanth, M. Indian Polity. McGraw-Hill.
7. Sharma, U., & Sharma, S. K. Principles and Theory of Political Science. Atlantic Publishers.
8. Johari, J. C. Principles of Modern Political Science. Sterling Publishers.
9. Lijphart, Arend. Patterns of Democracy. Yale University Press.
10. Sartori, Giovanni. Comparative Constitutional Engineering. Macmillan.
11. Dicey, A. V. Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution.
12. Sathe, S. P. Judicial Activism in India. Oxford University Press.
13. Singh, M. P., & Saxena, Rekha (Eds.). Indian Politics: Contemporary Issues and Concerns. PHI Learning.
14. Heywood, Andrew. Politics. Palgrave Macmillan.