

Core Courses

The core courses are compulsory for all students. These courses are:

- 1) Law and Justice in a Globalising World;
- 2) Law and Development;
- 3) Research Methods and Legal Writing;
- 4) Comparative Public Law/Systems of Governance.

The core courses on 'Law and Justice in a Globalising World' and 'Comparative Public Law/Systems of Governance' both employ a normative perspective to understand legal arrangements, particularly Constitutional legal arrangements. Constitutional arrangements are privileged in this manner as they form the normative foundation of modern legal systems. The course on 'Law and Justice' examines how substantive ideas of justice mould Constitutional principles, and how these ideas in turn are challenged by the imperatives of Globalisation. 'Comparative Public Law' closely analyses Constitutional arrangements across jurisdictions, and looks at how these arrangements relate to, and constitute, the idea of 'Constitutionalism'.

The core course on 'Law and Development' introduces students to idea of analysing law in its interaction with the economic, social, and political spheres. Historically, theories of law and development have privileged the ability of the law to shape outcomes in all three spheres. The core course in 'Law and Development' is designed to examine extent to which these claims are accurate, and the circumstances in which law may in fact play such a role.

The core course on 'Legal Research Methods and Writing' cultivates and polishes the ability of students to engage in careful reading and writing, as the written word is foundational to the effective use of legal institutions. Students will be encouraged to incorporate methods from the other social sciences in their research as a means of generating new knowledge on the nature of law and legal institutions in India.

Below are descriptions of all core courses:

Law and Justice in a Globalizing World

This course begins with an exploratory discussion on the concepts of law and justice and the ways in which they could be related to the idea of globalization. Then, it proceeds to critically scrutinize their role the making of modern legal and constitutional frameworks, both normative as well as institutional. It then maps contemporary research on the key propellers of globalization and the ways in which they impact/challenge the framework of law and justice through constitutionalism. The concluding unit presents key ideas on reimagining the concepts in the light of the globalization challenge and thereby thinking about the law and its relationship with development in the twenty first century.

Law and Development

This course seeks to cover various theories of the place of law and legal institutions in economic, social, and political development. It will examine diverse aspects of the Indian legal system in particular, with an emphasis on legal and judicial reform. It will also examine the impact and influence of economic globalization, and the role of external organizations such as the World Bank,

the WTO, or USAID in formulating and propagating particular ideas of the links between law and development. As this course is integral to the overall specialization, it will also seek to familiarize students with the history of the field, while also covering the content of debates among scholars in the field of the law and development. While providing an overview of the evolution of the field, the goal will be to provide a critical evaluation of different phases of the evolution of the field including in the contemporary era.

Comparative Public Law/Systems of Governance

The course focuses on the following elements: a) the main theories of constitutionalism, and attempts at defining 'constitutionalism' and b) issues relating to judicial review and constitutional adjudication of rights. The second feature in particular has been the focus of contemporary debates in the field of comparative constitutional law. The overall programme's focus on law and development will guide the contours of the course, leading to an emphasis on issues relating to equality, identity and social welfare rights in particular. Students taking the course will also be exposed to contemporary trends and debates in the area of comparative constitutional theory.

Research Methods and Legal Writing

This course seeks to provide a systematic introduction to quantitative and qualitative research methods with an additional emphasis on their adaptation to interdisciplinary socio-legal research. It will examine various ways of approaching the empirical social concerns and explore their possible normative/theoretical frameworks. It will also help students concretely structure their dissertation and clinical planning. The course will begin with a discussion on the concept of research and interdisciplinary socio-legal research. Students will then be introduced to the main quantitative and qualitative methods and the relevant techniques. These discussions will be followed by a unit dedicated to research proposal writing and clinical planning. The final unit will introduce various approaches to writing socio-legal research.

Elective Courses

Along with the core courses, students will be required to take 3 elective courses as a part of the programme. Students can take one elective course in their first semester, and two in their second semester. These electives form a vital component of the curriculum, and build substantially on the inter-disciplinary enquiry initiated in the core courses, particularly in the core course on Law and Development. An illustrative list of elective courses to be offered is as follows:

1. Philosophical Foundations of Political Institutions
2. Legal System Reform
3. Welfare Rights
4. Anthropology of State and Public Sphere
5. Law, Technology and Citizenship
6. Governance and Democracy
7. Human Rights, Democracy and Development
8. Law and Anthropology
9. Law, Economics and Development
10. Theoretical Foundations of Private Law