



**Centre for the Study of Law and Governance  
Jawaharlal Nehru University  
New Delhi-110067**

**Outline of Optional Course**

**LG 621 Law, Constitutionalism and Political Theory**

This course examines the trajectory of liberal constitutionalism in the context of Indian Law. Its first purpose is to bring out the normative presuppositions of the Indian constitution as revealed in the constitution itself and the ways in which it has been interpreted and modified by subsequent interpretations. Its second purpose is to normatively assess developments in key areas of Indian law. The guiding principle behind this inquiry is that a liberal constitution takes as its starting point the thought that all citizens are free and equal. This course will examine the various ways in which freedom and equality have been interpreted by Indian Courts and whether those interpretations can withstand normative scrutiny. This course will blend constitutional history, law and political theory. Each section will blend philosophical texts, historical materials and assigned cases

- The Idea of Constitutionalism
- Normative Inquiry and the Law
- Liberalism in Relation to Law
- The Indian Constitution in a Normative Frame
- What Are Fundamental Rights?
- Harmonising Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles
- Equality with special reference to Article 14
- Equality and Affirmative Action
- Law and the Constitution of Secularism