



Indraprastha College for Women

University of Delhi

Work Plan for ODD SEMESTER – 2025

Course Name:	B.A. (Hons.) Philosophy
Paper Title:	Philosophy of Law
Unique Paper Code:	2103103008
Semester:	V
Faculty(s):	Dr. Bindu Das
Year:	2025

Work Plan			
Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be Covered
I	To introduce the meaning, scope, and theoretical foundations of law	1-4	Concept, meaning, and definition of law
		5-8	Theories of Law – Natural Law Theory (Aquinas)
		9-12	Theories of Law – Legal Positivism (Austin)
		13--14	Introduction to Nyāya concept of argument and dispute (Vāda, Jalpa,

			Vitandā)
		15-17	Kautilya's Arthashastra – Forms of agreements and legal disputes
II	To explore the scope and reasons for legal obligation	18-20	Why should we obey the law – moral and political obligation
		21-24	The ambit of legal obligation
		25-26	The Rule of Law – concept and ideals
		27-29	Case study: Lon Fuller – The Case of the Speluncean Explorers
III	To understand key legal issues in India in constitutional and judicial contexts	30-32	Basic structure of the Constitution – concept and evolution
		33-34	Judicial Review – scope and limitations
		35-36	Analysis of Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)
		37-38	Impact of judicial decisions – Upendra Baxi's critique
IV	To examine the nature of criminal law and its philosophical underpinnings	39-40	Codification of laws – purpose and limitations
		41-42	Mens rea and Actus reus – essential elements of a crime
		43-44	Crime and Punishment – philosophical justifications

			(retributive, deterrent, reformatory)
		45--46	Contemporary debates on criminal justice reform

Unit	Contents/Syllabus
I	Concept, meaning, and definition of law; Theories of Law (Aquinas, Austin); Nyāya concept of argument and dispute; Kautilya's Arthashastra on legal disputes.
II	Legal obligation – reasons and scope; The Rule of Law; Fuller's The Case of the Speluncean Explorers.
III	Legal issues in India – Basic Structure Doctrine; Judicial Review; Case study of Kesavananda Bharati; Impact of judicial decisions.
IV	Codification of laws; Mens rea and Actus reus; Crime and Punishment; Contemporary debates in criminal justice.
S. No.	Name of Authors/Books/Publishers
1.	Altman, Andrew. Arguing About Law: An Introduction to Legal Philosophy. Wadsworth.
2.	Shastri, R. K. Kautilya's Arthashastra.
3.	Marmor, Andrei. The Ideal of the Rule of Law, in A Companion to

	Philosophy of Law and Legal Theory.
4.	Fuller, Lon. The Case of the Speluncean Explorers, Harvard Law Review.
5.	.Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala, AIR 1973 SC 1461.
6.	Baxi, Upendra. Who Bothers About the Supreme Court? Journal of the Indian Law Institute.

Paper Components			
Credits	Lecture (L)	Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)
4	3	1	0
Assessment Scheme			
S.No.	Component	Marking Scheme	Total Marks
1	Internal Assessment	12	30
	● Assignment/Quiz/Project/Presentation	12	
	● Class Test	6	
	● Attendance		
2.	Continuous Assessment (Tutorial)		40
	● Activity 1	12	
	● Activity 2	12	
	● Attendance		
3.	Practical	0	0
	● Continuous Assessment		
	● End Term Written/Practical Exam		
	● Viva		
4.	End Semester Examination		90