

Indian Constitutionalism  
Ambedkar University, Delhi (2019)

Arudra Burra, IIT Delhi

**Course packet I: the making of the Indian Constitution**

1. Arun Thiruvengadam, “Origins and Crafting of the Constitution” from *The Constitution of India: A Contextual Analysis*
2. Granville Austin, “The Constituent Assembly – Microcosm in Action” from *The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation*
3. B. Shiva Rao, “B. N. Rau – A Biographical Sketch” from *India’s Constitution in the Making*
4. Rakesh Ankit, “State before Partition: Indias Interim Government under Wavell,” *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*

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**Course packet II: the making of the Indian Constitution – primary documents**

1. Documents on the Cabinet Mission Plan, May 1946 from B. Shiva Rao, ed. *The Framing of India's Constitution: Select Documents (vol. I)*
2. B. N. Rau, "Opting in and opting out" from B. Shiva Rao, ed., *India's Constitution in the Making*
3. The Indian Independence Act, 1947

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**Course packet III: nationalist readings of the Indian Constitution**

1. Jawaharlal Nehru, "Speech on the Aims and Objects of the Constituent Assembly," *Constituent Assembly Debates (13 December 1946)*
2. Rajeev Bhargava, "Introduction," from *Ethics and Politics of the Indian Constitution*
3. Uday S Mehta, "Indian Constitutionalism: Crisis, Unity, and History," *The Oxford Handbook of the Indian Constitution*

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**Course packet IV: non-nationalist readings of the  
Indian Constitution**

1. Arvind Elangovan, “The Making of the Indian Constitution: A Case for a Non-nationalist Approach,” *History Compass* 12:1 (2014)
2. Aditya Nigam, “A Text without Author: Locating Constituent Assembly as Event,” *Economic and Political Weekly* 39:21 (2004)
3. Indian National Congress, “Karachi Resolution – 1931 (extract)”
4. Kama Maclean, “The Fundamental Rights Resolution: Nationalism, Internationalism, and Cosmopolitanism in an Interwar Moment,” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 37:2 (2017)
5. Indivar Kamtekar, “The Fables of Nationalism,” *India International Centre Quarterly* 26:3 (1999)
6. Ranajit Guha, “On Some Aspects of the Historiography of Colonial India,” *Subaltern Studies I* (1982)

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**Course packet V: Dr. Ambedkar and the Draft  
Constitution**

1. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, motion to introduce the Draft Constitution, *Constituent Assembly Debates* vol 7 (4 November 1948)
2. Pratap Bhanu Mehta, "What is Constitutional Morality?" *Seminar* 615 (2010)
3. André Bételle, "Constitutional Morality," *Economic and Political Weekly* 43:40 (2008)
4. Surinder Jodhka, "Nation and Village: Images of Rural India in Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar," *Economic and Political Weekly* 37:32 (2002)
5. Marc Galanter, "The Aborted Restoration of 'Indigenous' Law in India," *Law and Society in Modern India*
6. Arudra Burra, "The Cobwebs of Imperial Rule," *Seminar* 615 (2010)
7. Rohit De, selections from *A People's Constitution: The Everyday Life of Law in the Indian Republic*

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**Course packet VI: Dr. Ambedkar, Democracy,  
and the Constitution**

1. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, speech on third reading of the Draft Constitution, *Constituent Assembly Debates* vol 11 (25 November 1949)
2. Ujjwal Kumar Singh and Anupama Rao, "B. R. Ambedkar and the Ideas of Constitutionalism and Constitutional Democracy," *Summerhill, IAS Review*, XXIII:2 (Winter 2017)