Value Added Course
Legal Methods

(60 Lectures)

Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the nature, purpose, and sources of law.
- To familiarise the students with essential legal maxims and their practical application.
- To inculcate professional values, basic courtroom mannerisms, and orientation as a law student.
- To develop the foundational mindset required for legal education and practice.

Unit I- Lecture Plan (20 Lectures)

Unit I- Introduction to Law & Foundational Legal Concepts
Learning Objectives

- **Meaning, Nature & Functions of Law**
- **Legal Terminology**
- **Legal Maxims**

Module A: Meaning, Nature & Functions of Law

- *Introduction to Law & Legal Education*
  - Why study law? Role of a law student.
  - Law as a tool for order and justice.
- *What is Law?*

Module B: Basic Legal Terminology

- *Legal Vocabulary I*
  - Plaintiff, Defendant, Appellant, Respondent, Petitioner, etc.
- *Legal Vocabulary II*
  - Writs, FIR, Injunction, Locus Standi, Jurisdiction, Affidavit, etc,
- *Legal Vocabulary III*
  - Ratio Decidendi, Obiter Dicta.
  - Civil vs. Criminal proceedings.

Module C: Legal Maxims

- *Maxims I*

- *De Minimus Non Curat Lex*
- *Ignorantia juris non excusat*
- *Nemo judex in causa sua*
- *Ubi jus ibi remedium*

· *Maxims II*

- *Actori incumbit onus probandi*
- *Audi alteram partem*
- *Caveat emptor*
- *Res judicata pro veritate accipitur*

· *Maxims III*

- *Actus non facit reum nisi mens sit rea*
- *Damnum sine injuria*
- *Injuria sine damno*
- *Volenti non fit injuria*

Latin Legal Concepts

· *Actus Reus*
· *Ad litem*
· *Corpus delicti*
· *Causa Sine Qua Non*
· *De facto / De jure*
· *Ex parte*
· *Factum*
· *Habeas corpus*
· *In personam / In rem*
· *Ipso Facto*
· *Locus standi*
· *Mens rea*
· *Malafide*
· *Modus Operandi*
· *Prima facie*
· *Probono*
· *Quid Pro Quo*
· *Res Judicata*
· *Sine qua non*
· *Sub judice*
· *Ultra vires*
· *Vise Versa*
· *Vis-Vis*

Unit II- Lecture Plan (20 Lectures)

Unit II- Legal Database Searches & Research Skills

- **Introduction to Legal Research & Databases**
- **Case Law Search & Citation Skills**
- **Statutory & Secondary Source Research**

Module A: Legal Database Searches & Research Skills

- *Meaning and importance of legal research in academics and practice.*
- *Difference between manual library research and electronic legal research.*
- *Overview of common Indian & international legal databases:* ***Manupatra, SCC Online, LexisNexis, Westlaw, HeinOnline, JSTOR****, etc.*
- *Orientation/ Practical to law school library resources.*

Module B: Legal Database Searches & Research Skills

- *How to search cases by party name, citation, subject, or keyword.*
- *Understanding equivalent citations (e.g., AIR vs. SCC vs. SCR).*

Module C: Statutory & Secondary Source Research

- *Searching statutes, rules, regulations, and amendments.*
- *Using "bare acts" online vs. annotated versions.*
- *Finding commentaries, journals, and scholarly articles.*

Unit III- Lecture Plan (20 Lectures)

Unit III- Legal Abbreviations

- **Meaning and relevance of Abbreviations**
- **Legal Abbreviations**

Module A: Meaning and relevance of Abbreviations

- *Purpose and Importance of Abbreviations in Law*
- *Use in Legal Drafting, citations, legal research, etc.*

Module B: Legal Abbreviations

- **IPC - Indian Penal Code**
- **SC - Supreme Court**
- **HC - High Court**
- **CJ - Chief Justice**
- **AG - Attorney General**
- **AOR - Advocate on Record**
- **CJI - Chief Justice of India**
- **Ld. - Learned (used to address lawyers)**
- **FIR - First Information Report**
- **PIL - Public Interest Litigation**
- **LLB - Bachelor of Laws**
- **LLM - Master of Laws**
- **RTI - Right to Information**
- **ADR - Alternative Dispute Resolution**
- **CJM - Chief Judicial Magistrate**
- **FIR - First Information Report**
- **CAT - Central Administrative Tribunal**
- **AIR- All India Reporter**
- **v. - *versus* (used in case titles, e.g., *A v. B*)**
- ***Ibid- Ibidem***
- ***Supra- above***
- ***Id. - Idem***
- **Cal.- Calcutta High Court Reports**
- **Mad. - Madras High Court Reports**
- **SCC- Supreme Court Cases**
- **LLJ- Labour Law Journal**
- **WS- Written Statement**
- **WP- Writ Petition**
- **u/s- under section**
- **r/w- read with**
- **PW- Prosecution Witness**
- **DW- Defence Witness**

Unit IV

Unit IV- Assignments

- **Case Law Research using Legal Maxims**

Suggested Topics: Application of the Legal Maxim "*Audi Alteram Partem* by the Indian Judiciary"

- Search for two Supreme Court Cases where the Legal Maxim was applied
- Write the facts, issues and the judgment in 300 words
- Use proper legal abbreviations and cite the database and source.

- **Drafting a Legal Notice**
  - Suggested Topic: "Non-delivery of goods after payment of consideration"
  - Draft a notice to the defaulting party
  - Include five legal abbreviations
  - Insert Legal Latin Maxims
  - Cite the database and source.

Suggested Readings

- Avtar Singh & Harpreet Kaur, *Introduction to Law*.
- Nomita Aggarwal, *Legal Methods*.
- Glanville Williams, *Learning the Law*.
- Universal's Dictionary of Legal Maxims.
- Basu & Mukherji, Legal Dictionary.
- Madhubhushi Sridhar Acharyulu, Legal Language.

Suggested Teaching Methods

- **Lectures** with interactive discussions.
- **Case law discussions** to explain legal maxims.
- **Court visits** (observation of proceedings).
- **Role play/moot court exercises** to practice etiquette.
- **Workshops** on case reading and legal research basics.