LEGAL METHODS[1]
(COURSE OUTLINE)

AIM

This course seeks to enable first year students to identify, analyse and research issues in any area of law. It is a bridge course designed to equip students with the basic skills and information necessary to navigate the law-related courses and activities during their law school life and later.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

At the end of this course, students should:

- have an elementary understanding of the debates around the nature of law;
- be able to distinguish between the major kinds of law, legal systems and institutions;
- know the structure of the legal institutions and the hierarchy of courts in India;
- acquire the ability to identify legal issues and principles underlying any given factual situation, and to undertake and present research on such issues;
- know the various sources of law and be able to synthesise such sources and use them to formulate arguments in their research;
- be familiar with legal research sources and tools and basic techniques of legal and logical reasoning; and
- be better able to write clearly and succinctly, tailoring their writing to their audience and their purpose.

COURSE FORMAT

Instructions will be imparted through a blend of lectures, discussions and class exercises. Students shall be expected to complete research assignments and exercises directed at honing their research and writing skills. Such assignments and exercises will be graded and will form part of the final marks for the Course.

ASSESSMENT SCHEME:

1. **Class Participation**
   A. *Research Assignment*
   B. *Case analysis assignment*
   C. *Exercise in writing and referencing*
   D. *General Class Participation*

   2. Essay

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3. End-Semester Examination

LIST OF MODULES AND READINGS

MODULE 1 - Introduction to Law and Legal Systems and Institutions

1.1 What is Law? - Introduction to Law, Its Functions

1.2 Categorising Laws and Legal Systems

1.3 the Indian Judicial System

MODULE 2–An Introduction to Research – Using a Law Library

2.1 Primary sources and secondary sources
2.2 Basic Legal Research

MODULE 3 – Various Approaches to Legal Reasoning

Introduction to Legal Reasoning

MODULE 4- Reading, interpreting and Analyzing Law

4.1 Statutes and subordinate legislation
4.2 Cases

MODULE 5 - Logical Reasoning and Analysis

5.1 Basic Concepts in Logic and Legal Reasoning: Propositions, Arguments, Explanations, Paraphrasing
(3 hours)
5.2 Deductive Reasoning and Inductive Reasoning – (2 hours)
5.3 Fallacies – Typical Errors in Reasoning - (1 hours)

MODULE 6 - Legal Writing [7 hours]

6.1 Referencing
6.2 Plagiarism
6.3 Writing: Working towards clarity and structure