



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

**Outline of Compulsory Course**

**LG 602 Governance I: Theories and Concepts**

This foundational course will provide students with a comprehensive survey of the literature on governance; the descriptive and normative dimensions of the concept, and the theoretical approaches to its study; and the extensive literature on the measurability of governance. In its original formulation, provoked by neo-liberal policies of economic reform, and a concomitant reconceptualization of the role of the state, governance has been an embattled and contested concept. It is however a concept that has shed some of these old associations and recovered new meanings, especially as it has come to inform the claims to justice, rights and accountability for disempowered groups.

Among the questions that the course will address are the following. Should the state be the primary provider of public goods? If states have abdicated their central responsibility for citizen welfare, what is at stake in the claim that markets and civil society actors can do this better? Is civil service reform the answer, or should inefficient state institutions withdraw to make way for more effective public service provision through public-private partnerships? How can policy-making processes be made transparent, policy outcomes equitable, and policy-makers and implementers accountable? The course will also discuss the multiplication in the levels of governance, from the local to the global.

**I. The Concept of Governance**

- Evolution of the concept of governance as part of the neo-liberal discourse, and its critique
- Alternative perspectives on governance

**II. Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Governance**

- The Public and the Private: an overview of theories and concepts:
  - Rational Choice and collective choice
  - New Institutionalism
  - Policy networks and policy instruments
  - Discourse Analysis

**III. The State**

- State capacity, adaptability, strength and weakness
- The role of the state in economic development (the developmental state, the predatory state, the corporatist state)
- Embedded Autonomy
- The rule of law and access to justice
- Corruption and rent-seeking

**IV. Reforming the State**

- New Public Management and its critique
- Public sector reform
- Transparency and Accountability

## V. States and Markets

- Governing the Market
- Regulatory framework and institutions
- Corporate Governance

## VI. State and Civil Society

- Social movements
- Non-governmental organizations
- User Committees
- Self-Help Groups
- Synergy, public-private partnerships and co-production
- Civil society and policy networks
- Role of donor agencies
- Laws and the regulatory framework

## VII. Multi-level Governance

- Local governance and decentralization
- Global governance

## VIII. Measuring Governance

- An introduction to the various measures of the quality of governance that have been devised, and their limitations
- Assessing indicators for developed and developing countries