

Course title: Telecommunications Law					
Course code MPL 161	No. of credits: 2	L-T-P distribution: 12-16-0	Learning hours: 28		
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None					
Department: Centre for Postgraduate Legal Studies					
Course coordinator (s) : TBA		Course instructor (s): TBA			
Contact details: TBA					
Course type	Elective				
Course offered in	Semester 2				
Course Description					
Telecommunication is a key infrastructure for economic and industrial development. The reforms carried out in the sector, including the entry of private operators, have resulted in unprecedented growth in the sector. This course is an attempt to look at the telecommunication laws and policies in India. As the distinction between telecommunication and broadcasting technologies are getting blurred with the convergence of technologies, this course also takes a look at the broadcasting laws.					
Course objectives					
1. To understand the legal framework for telecommunications in India. 2. To critically analyse the regulatory structure and various regulatory agencies in the telecommunication sector. 3. To understand the legal issues involved in the broadcasting sector.					
Course Content					
			L	T	P
Module 1: Introduction			4		
Telecommunication Networks and Technological developments: Network scenario: Fixed, Mobile and Internet/Broadband networks, Convergence History of regulation in India Telegraph Act, 1885: Legislative history, definition of telegraph, Government's power. The Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 Reforms in the sector: National Telecom Policy, 1994; New Telecom Policy, 1999; National Telecom Policy, 2012 Broadband Policy, 2004					
Module 2: Regulatory Framework on Telecommunications			4	6	
Governing Legislation: Telegraph Act, 1885, The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, 2000 Amendments. Key Regulatory and Policy Making Agencies: Department of Telecommunications: Role and Functions, Licensing, Spectrum Allocation, Universal Service Obligation Fund Telecom Regulatory Authority of India: Composition, Role and Functions, Recommendatory and Regulatory Powers Key TRAI Regulations: Interconnection, Tariffs, Quality of Service, Number Portability, Radiation and Safety Issues, Accessibility, Net Neutrality					

Module 3: Consumer Protection and Competition Policy	2	5	
Different types of disputes, Provisions under the Telegraph Act, 1885; Role of TDSAT under TRAI Act; Role of TRAI and the regulations for Consumer Protection, Role of Consumer Courts Competition Policy and Telecom sector.			
Module 4: Broadcasting and Cable Regulation	2	5	
Legal issues relating to right to broadcast – powers of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, TRAI Self-regulation			
Total	12	16	
Evaluation criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation : 10 • Term Paper : 25 • Presentations : 25 • Test 3 : 40 			
Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, it is expected that the students will be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Able to familiarise with the legal framework for telecommunications in India. 2. Able to effectively resolve the problems/disputes in the area of telecommunication sector in India. 			
Pedagogical approach A mixture of lecture and discussion methods will be adopted. The topics under each module will be introduced through an introductory lecture, followed by discussions by students. Students are expected to come prepared and initiate discussions on topics that have been assigned beforehand.			
Materials Suggested Readings <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raghavan, Vikram (2007), <i>Communications Law in India</i>, New Delhi: LexisNexis Butterworths. 2. Bajpai, Manjul (2008), “Telecom Law and Telecom Dispute Settlement Mechanism in India - A Bird's Eye View”, http://tdsat.nic.in/New%20Compendium19.11.2008/roman_V_1/Manjul_1-36.pdf 3. Prasad, Rohit and Sridhar, V. (2008), “A Critique of Spectrum Management in India”, <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>, 43 (38): 13-17. 4. Chowdary, T. H. (2000), “For an Independent and Effective Telecom Regulator”, <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>, 35 (19): 1599-1601. 5. Chowdary, T. H. (2000), “Telecom Regulation and Consumer Welfare”, <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>, 37 (43): 4354-4356. 6. Consultation Papers issued by TRAI from time to time on various issues 			
Additional information (if any)			
Student responsibilities Students are expected to come prepared with readings and actively participate in the discussions.			

Course Reviewers:

1. Dr. Anirban Majumdar, Associate Professor, West Bengal national University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata.
2. Prof. Bindu Ronald, Professor, Symbiosis Law School, Pune.