



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts-based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community.

POSC 401 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Admin 309; TTh 12:30-1:45

CRN: 20059; Section: 01
Semester: Spring 2019
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: None

Instructor: Dr. Sally J. Howard
Office: Marsh Hall 329
Office Hours: M:2-3, T/Th:11-12, W:10-11, F:12-1, and by appointment

Email: sjhoward@concord.edu
Phone: 304-384-5149
Fax: 304-384-6091
Website: <http://www.concord.edu/social-sciences/>

Course Description:

Courses in Political Science are designed to stimulate in students a greater awareness and understanding of political institutions, processes, relationships, and their underlying principles. This course combines a historical look at the origins of and theory behind the U. S. Constitution and the U.S. Supreme Court, with an analysis of some of the most important cases with which the Court has dealt.

Course Management System: None
Hardware/Software Needed: None

Text Requirement: *Constitutional Law for a Changing America: A Short Course* (7th Edition), Epstein & Walker

Concord University Educational Goals:

Skills: #4 An ability to analyze, synthesize, and integrate elements, information and ideas.

Knowledge: #3 An ability to interpret events and trends within historical contexts.

Attitudes: #1 Habitual reflection on ethical/moral implications of actions when weighing decisions and evaluating outcomes.

Attitudes: #7 Motivation to pursue lifelong learning and ongoing intellectual growth.

Applicable National Standards: None

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Understand the powers allocated to each branch of the U. S. Government by the Constitution (and the limitations on those powers)
- Understand the role played by the Judicial Branch of the U.S. Government
- Be able to explain the role of *stare decisis* in judicial decision-making
- Recognize the ways that Supreme Court decisions reflect the times in which they are made
- Be able to properly brief a Supreme Court case

Course Requirements:

Class Preparation: You are expected to come to class with the readings completed and at least partially digested. You should always be prepared to discuss the day's topic (even if you don't fully understand it). In addition, you should follow the work of the current Supreme Court through either the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post*. The online blog www.scotusblog.org has daily information on the cases being heard and decisions being rendered by the Court. Feel free to keep the class informed if you come across something interesting.

Case Briefs*: You will have five in-class case briefing assignments. We will review case briefing before the first assignment and you will be given a template for completing the briefs. In-class briefs are open book. *Up to two (2) Case Briefs may be replaced by other in-class assignments. Case Briefs/Assignments will be unannounced.

Tests: There are four tests, each over the chapters and lectures from that section of the course. Tests will be a mixed format of definitions, short/medium answers and essays.

Final Exam Period: There is no final exam. The final exam period will be used for making up a (1) missed exam, retaking an (1) exam on which you did poorly, and/or making up a missed case-brief. **In order to be eligible to make up a missed exam, students must notify me that they will miss the original exam prior to its occurrence.** Make-up and re-take exams *will not* be identical to the original exams. **The maximum for this make-up period is one exam and one case brief.**

Policies and Grading:

All absences beyond three (3) will result in a reduction in attendance points. Chronic lateness will result in a reduction in attendance points.

Grade points are distributed as follows:

Attendance	25 points
Case Briefs	100 points (20 each)
Exams	400 points
Total	525 points

A = 472 - 525

B = 420 - 471

C = 367 - 419

D = 315 - 366

F = < 315

Course Timeline*

1/15	Introduction
<u>Part I</u>	<u>The U.S. Constitution</u>
1/17	Chapter 2 (Supreme Court)
<u>Part II</u>	<u>Institutional Authority</u>
1/22	Chapter 3 (Judiciary)
1/24	Chapter 4 (Legislature)
1/29	Chapter 5 (Executive)
1/31	Chapter 6 (Federalism)
2/5	FIRST EXAM
<u>Part III</u>	<u>Economic Liberties</u>
2/7	Chapter 7 (Commerce)
2/12	No Class
2/14	Chapter 8 (Tax and Spend)
2/19	Chapter 9 (Contracts)
2/21	Chapter 11 (Takings)
2/26	SECOND EXAM
<u>Part IV</u>	<u>Civil Liberties</u>
2/28	Chapter 12 (Religion: Establishment)
3/5	Chapter 12 (Religion: Free Exercise)
3/7	Chapter 13 (Speech, etc)
** SPRING BREAK**	
3/19	Chapter 14 (Press)
3/21	Chapter 15 (2nd Amendment)
3/26	Chapter 16 (Privacy)
3/28	continued
4/2	THIRD EXAM
<u>Part V</u>	<u>Rights of the Accused</u>
4/4	Chapter 17 (Investigation and Evidence)
4/9	Chapter 18 (Attorneys, etc.)
<u>Part VI</u>	<u>Civil Rights</u>
4/11	Chapter 19 (Discrimination)
4/16	continued
4/18	Chapter 20 (Voting and Representation)
4/23	No Class
4/25	continued
5/2	FOURTH EXAM
5/9	Final Exam Period (11:30-1:45)

*You are responsible for keeping up with the reading/assignment/exam schedule. If you lose this syllabus and need another copy, please let me know.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Accessibility/Accommodations:

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

Class Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

Emergency Information

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to: <http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

Inclement Weather Policy

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

University Closure - No students or employees are to report.

Classes Cancelled - Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay - Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

*Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.

Sexual Harassment & Assault

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or titleix@concord.edu. Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Student Conduct

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

Technology Services

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail cuhelpdesk@concord.edu.

Syllabus Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. You will be notified of changes in class and via email.