

POL-2100: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: POL-2100 : Constitutional Law

Board of Trustees:

January 2022

Academic Term:

Fall 2022

Subject Code

POL - Political Science

Course Number:

2100

Title:

Constitutional Law

Catalog Description:

The origins and development of American constitutional and legal system. Emphasizes the structure and role of Supreme Court in constitutional interpretation and major decisions concerning important areas of litigation. Major areas of emphasis include federalism, separation of powers, civil liberties, civil rights, and rights of the criminally accused. Historical and current court cases discussed.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-1010 College Composition I, and POL-1010 American National Government.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Trace the historical underpinnings of the current American judicial system.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Describe the historical development and growth of the federal judicial system.
2. Explain the emergence of the Supreme Court's authority of judicial review, citing historical examples.
3. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various methods of constitutional interpretation used by the courts, citing historical case examples.

Course Outcome(s):

Analyze the structure and processes of the federal judicial system.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Explain the theory underlying the American dual court system.
 2. Delineate the role of the Supreme Court and lower federal courts in the American judicial system.
 3. Discuss the process through which the Supreme Court accepts, hears, decides, and publishes decisions on cases.
 4. Define the foundational language used in the courtroom and in case opinions.
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Course Outcome(s):

Analyze the Supreme Court's decisions on major social issues throughout history.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Citing cases, explain how the Supreme Court has dealt with the issue of federalism.
 2. Citing cases, explain how the Supreme Court has dealt with the issue of separation of powers as it relates to executive and legislative powers.
 3. Explain the Doctrine of Selective Incorporation as applied by the Supreme Court to the first ten amendments to the Constitution.
 4. Citing cases, analyze major Supreme Court decisions concerning civil liberties contained in the Bill of Rights.
 5. Citing cases, explain how the Supreme Court has dealt with issues concerning the rights of the criminally accused.
 6. Citing cases, explain how the Supreme Court has dealt with the issue of discrimination.
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Course Outcome(s):

Acquire and synthesize information on judicial decisions.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Information Literacy: Acquire, evaluate, and use information from credible sources in order to meet information needs for a specific research purpose.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Utilize the Internet to explore published judicial decisions.
 2. Prepare a written assignment using word processing and graphics.
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Methods of Evaluation:

The student will be evaluated using a variety of techniques that may include:

1. Essay exams
2. Objective tests
3. Quizzes
4. Class participation
5. Individual projects
6. Group projects
7. Research papers
8. Book reviews
9. Oral and written case briefs

Course Content Outline:

1. American Judicial System
 - a. Constitution, Article III
 - i. Judicial Design
 1. Justice selection
 2. Organizing judicial acts
 - ii. Judicial jurisdiction
2. The United States Supreme Court

- a. Judicial process
 - i. Supreme Court case procedure
 - ii. Legal language
- b. Judicial review
- c. Constitutional interpretation
 - i. Absolutism or Interpretivism
 - ii. Balancing interests or judicial restraint
 - iii. Strict scrutiny or preferred freedoms
- 3. Federalism
 - a. X Amendment federalism
 - b. Commerce clause
- 4. Separation of powers
 - a. Legislative powers
 - b. Executive powers
- 5. Civil liberties
 - a. Religion
 - b. Speech
 - c. Press
 - d. Privacy
- 6. Criminal rights of the accused
- 7. Civil rights
 - a. Civil War amendments
 - b. Discrimination
 - c. Voting and representation

Resources

Epstein, Lee, and Thomas Walker. (2021) *Constitutional Law for a Changing America: Rights, Liberties and Justice*, Washington: CQ Press.

Barnett, Randy E. and Josh Blackman. (2019) *An Introduction to Constitutional Law: 100 Supreme Court Cases Everyone Should Know*, Wolters Kluwer.

Choper, Jesse et al. (2020) *Leading Cases in Constitutional Law, A Compact Casebook for a Short Course*, West Academic Publishing.

May, Christopher N. and Simona Grossi. (2019) *Constitutional Law (Examples & Explanations)*, Wolters Kluwer.

Founding Fathers. (2020) *The Constitution of the United States of America: The Declaration of Independence, The Bill of Rights*, East India Publishing Company.

Skousen, Paul B. . *How to Read the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

Maddex, Robert L. *Illustrated Dictionary of Constitutional Concepts*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 1997.

Funk, William. (2014) *Introduction to American Constitutional Law: Structure and Rights (American Casebook Series)*, West Academic Publishing.

Dolan, Julie and Marni Ezra. *CQ's Supreme Court Simulation: Government in Action*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2002.

Resources Other

1. Opinions from the United States Reports | OpenJurist (<https://openjurist.org/us/>)
2. US Supreme Court Opinions and Cases | FindLaw (<https://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/us-supreme-court/>)
3. Home - Supreme Court of the United States (<https://www.supremecourt.gov/>)
4. SCOTUSblog - Independent News & Analysis on the U.S. Supreme Court (<https://www.scotusblog.com/>)

Instructional Services

OAN Number:

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