COURSE DESCRIPTION

HONORS CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

In this college-level course, students explore the development of American Constitutional Law including the origins of the Constitution, the rise of judicial power, the development of the Court’s doctrine in the areas of federalism and economic regulation, the Court’s relationship to other branches of government, and the judicial protection of fundamental rights under the Bill of Rights.

Numerous provisions of the Constitution and its amendments guarantee individual rights and liberties. However, conflicts over the meaning and application of such guarantees constantly arise, requiring the courts--ultimately the Supreme Court--to resolve them not only by interpreting the language of the Constitution but also by balancing the interests of the conflicting parties.

To help make sense of all of this, the Constitutional Law course is organized around three questions: (1) What in the Constitution that is to be interpreted? What is its nature and what are its functions? What does it include? How does it legitimately change? (2) Who are the authoritative interpreters of the Constitution and what are the relations among them? (3) How should authoritative interpreters interpret the Constitution?

Students read and analyze Supreme Court decisions with the goal of understanding constitutional doctrine. However, because court decisions also are a reflection of the political and social context in which they are made, students also look beyond court cases to the broader political and social background which is essential to understanding the nature of civil liberties and civil rights in the American constitutional system.

Summer School students in this course take two essay examinations that test their knowledge of readings, lectures, guest speakers, and discussions, and write a 8-12 page analytical paper of university caliber demonstrating their understanding of constitutional issues in conflict and the workings of the Supreme Court. The paper either interprets a specific Supreme Court case or examines a topic concerning constitutional law, constitutional interpretation or the Supreme Court. Students must research their paper using a variety of legal and other sources, citing previous cases as precedents for their decision or brief. The term paper requires original research and extensive use of the Georgetown University Library. Faculty closely supervise student research. Classroom material is augmented by a robust speakers program where students attend lectures from premier speakers in their fields.

While the class is offered for high school credit and is equivalent to a one-semester Honors Social Studies elective, it is taught at a college level. Classes are held six days a week. Students accumulate over 85 classroom hours in the program.

The assigned college-level textbook for the course is:

**Please note that that is a SAMPLE syllabus based on one from previous years and the syllabi for this summer will vary, including specific topics covered, daily readings, expected exam dates and paper due dates**

JSA Summer School - Georgetown - American Constitutional Law

**Text:**

**Course Requirements:**
- Midterm Exam (100 points)
- Final Exam (150 points)
- Congressional Workshop (100 points)
- Research Paper (150 points)

**Examinations & Assignments:**
- The Midterm Exam is on Saturday, July 7
- The Final Exam is on Wednesday, July 18
- The Research Paper is due on Friday, July 20

**Reading Assignments:**

*Lectures on Theoretical Underpinnings of the Constitution*
- The Constitution of the United States of America (in back of text)
- *Federalist Paper* No. 10
- *Federalist Papers* No. 47 & No. 51
- *Federalist Paper* No. 39
- *Federalist Paper* No. 78
- *Federalist Paper* No. 84

*Chapters 1 and 2*
- *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)
- *Eakin v. Raub* (1925)
- *Scott v. Sandford* (1857)
- *Cooper v. Aaron* (1958)
- *Ex Parte McCord* (1869)
- *Federalist* 80
- *Frothingham v. Mellon* (1923)
- *Luther v. Borden* (1849)
- *United States v. Butler* (1936)

*Chapter 3 -- Congress and the President*
- *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819)
- *Federalist* 33
- *Federalist* 44 (portion on "necessary and proper," para. 10-18)
Federalists 48, 49, and 50
Powell v. McCormack (1969)
Gravel v. United States (1972)
McGrain v. Daugherty (1927)
Watkins v. United States (1957)
Barenblatt v. United States (1959)
Federalist Papers & Impeachment
Federalist 57
Schechter Poultry Corporation v. United States (1935)
Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Chadha (1983)

Myers v. United States (1926)
Humphrey’s Executor v. United States (1935)
Federalists 69, 76, and 77
Morrison v. Olson (1988)

In Re Neagle (1890)
Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer (1952)
*Barnes v. Kline (1987)
Federalist 73
*Ray v. Blair (1952)
Federalist 68
Federalists 71, 74, and 72

Chapter 9 - The Bill of Rights
*Barron v. Baltimore (1833)
*Gitlow v. New York (1925)
Palko v. Connecticut (1937)
Adamson v. California (1947)
Duncan v. Louisiana (1968)
*Miller v. U.S. (1939)
McDonald v. City of Chicago (2010)

Chapter 12 – Religious Liberty
West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette (1943)
Everson v. Board of Education (1947)
Torcaso v. Watkins (1961)
Engel v. Vitale (1962)
Epperson v. Arkansas (1968)
Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971)
Marsh v. Chambers (1983)
Wallace v. Jaffree (1985)
Lee v. Weisman (1992)
McCreary County v. ACLU (2005)
Van Orden v. Perry (2005)
Town of Greece v. Galloway (2014)
Sherbert v. Verner (1963)
Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)
Employment Division v. Smith (1990)
City of Boerne v. Flores (1997)

Chapter 13 – Privacy
*Skinner v. Oklahoma (1942)
Griswold v. Connecticut (1965)
Roe v. Wade (1973)
Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Penn. v. Casey (1992)
* Stenberg v. Carhart (2000)
Gonzales v. Carhart (2007)

Chapters 6 and 8 – Commerce Clause, Property Rights and Due Process
Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)
Cooley v. Board of Wardens (1851)
Slaughterhouse Cases (1873)
Munn v. Illinois (1877)
United States v. E.C. Knight (1895)
Lochner v. New York (1905)
Hammer v. Dagenhart (1918)
West Coast Hotel Co. v. Parrish (1937)
United States v. Caroleene Products Company (1938)
Wickard v. Filburn (1942)
Williamson v. Lee Optical Company (1955)
Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States (1964)
Katzenbach v. McClung (1964)
Saenz v. Roe (1999)

Chapter 10 Criminal Justice
Mapp v. Ohio (1961)
Olmstead v. United States (1928)
Katz v. United States (1967)
Chapter 14 – Equal Protection

Civil Rights Cases (1883)
Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)
Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
Bolling v. Sharpe (1954)
United States v. Fordice (1992)
Shapiro v. Thompson (1969)
Moose Lodge No. 107 v. Irvis (1972)
Frontiero v. Richardson (1973)
Craig v. Boren (1976)
Regents University of California v. Bakke (1978)
Romer v. Evans (1996)

Chapter 15 – [Presidents] in Wartime
Ex Parte Milligan (1866)
United States v. Curtiss-Wright (1936)
Korematsu v. United States (1944)
Ex parte Quirin (1942)
Youngstown v. United States (1952)
War Powers Resolution (1973)

Chapter 11 – Freedom of Expression
Schenk v. United States (1919)
Whitney v. California (1927)
Near v. Minnesota (1931)
Dennis v. United States (1951)
Brandenburg v. Ohio (1969)
United States v. O’Brien (1968)
Buckley v. Valeo (1976)
Citizens United v. FEC (2010)
Snyder v. Phelps (2011)
Miller v. California (1973)
Reno v. American Civil Liberties Union (1997)
Masterpiece Cakeshop Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Right Commission (2018)
Minnesota Voters Alliance v. Mansky (2018)