POS4603-15Fall 0W59

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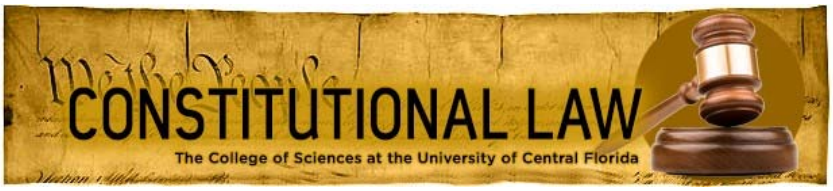

Instructor Contact

- Instructor: Barry Edwards, J.D., Ph.D. (About Me (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/pages/about-me))
- Office: Howard Phillips Hall 305B (Where's This? (http://map.ucf.edu/locations/14/howard-phillips-hall-hph/))
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- E-mail: barry.edwards@ucf.edu

Course Information

- Course Name: Constitutional Law I
- Course ID & Section: POS 4603-DW59
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Fall 2015
- Web Only Course

Course Description

Constitutional law addresses the contents of the U.S. Constitution and the interpretation of those contents. We will look at the organization of the United States Government (i.e., the distribution and execution of those powers); and the relations between the Government and persons under its jurisdiction (i.e., under the Bill of Rights). Under the United States' system, the chief problems of constitutional law center on the basic matter of judicial review, on relations between and among the three (3) branches of government, on the federal system's distribution of powers between the federal and state governments, and on the restrictions or limitation on government in either procedural or substantive (e.g., due process) contexts. University Course Catalog Description: Development of American federalism and national power, commerce clause, and nationalization of the economy.

Course Prerequisites

ENC 1102 (Freshman Composition II), POS 2041 (American National Government) or consent of the instructor. I encourage you to take POS 4284 (Judicial Process and Politics) prior to taking this class.

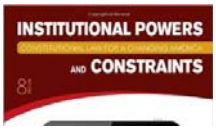
Course Objectives

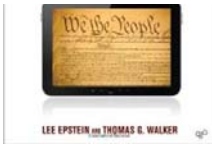
The objective of this course is to introduce you to the important role that the United States Constitution has in orienting American politics and governance. With this end in mind, we will explore the Constitution, its various interpretations, and the role of the judiciary in constitutional application, examples of the influence it has had on the function of government, and the case law that has emanated from its interpretation. The objectives of this class include the following:

- Understand key constitution terms and concepts
- Understand historically significant Supreme Court decisions
- Analyze historical trends in Supreme Court composition and decision making
- Evaluate and apply constitutional precedents
- Apply legal reasoning to complex hypothetical problems
- Engage in discussion and deliberation of constitutional issues
- Improve writing and critical thinking skills
- Build collaboration skills and practice professional work habits

Required Texts and Materials

Epstein, Lee, and Thomas Walker. 2014. *Constitutional Law for a Changing America: Institutional Powers and Constraints, Eighth Edition.* Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, an Imprint of Sage Publications, Inc. (hereafter "Epstein & Walker"). *Make sure you buy Volume I with the brown cover (see image below) not Volume II with the blue cover.**





Additional readings will be announced and/or distributed in class. In particular, these readings will focus on rulings from the most recent Supreme Court term(s) and emerging issues in constitutional law.

Course Requirements

Your final grade is based on the following components:

1. **Module Quizzes** (40%) – Each numbered module contains a quiz which include multiple choice, true false questions, and a short answer question.
2. **Module Review Exercises** (15%) – Each numbered module contains one or more graded review exercises, such as crossword puzzles, matching games, etc.
3. **Court Simulation One** (15%) – Students will participate in a week long simulation of Supreme Court decision making. The simulation will required to work individually as well as in collaboration with other students in the class and will be graded on both their individual work as well as the group product. Simulation One will focus on institutional powers.
4. **Court Simulation Two** (15%) – Students will participate in a week long simulation of Supreme Court decision making. The simulation will required to work individually as well as in collaboration with other students in the class and will be graded on both their individual work as well as the group product. Simulation Two will focus on nation-state relations.
5. **Final Exam** (15%) – The Final Examination is cumulative and will require students to apply their understanding of the subject matter in a comprehensive manner. Students can expect a mix of multiple choice and true-false questions on the Final Exam.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Make-up work will only be allowed for official University activities or personal emergencies. Written documentation is required. Make-up assessments may be different. There is no extra credit available.

Late Work

Completing all your work by the specified dues dates is important to your success in this class. Late work will be penalized. Your score on late work will be reduced 10% per day late. For example, if receive a score of 9 our of 10 on a quiz two days after it was due (i.e. you took a quiz due Sunday on Tuesday instead), your score will be reduced 20%, so you will receive a 7.2 out of 10 on that quiz. You will receive no credit for work complete ten or more days after its due date. However, because modules unlock only after your have completed prior modules, so you will still need to finish your work (for no credit) to complete this class.

Grading Scale

>=93	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	<=59
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

Grades of "Incomplete"

Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the “I” will automatically be recorded as an “F” on your transcript.

Group Work Policy

This course requires both individual and group work. You are welcome to discuss course material with other students, but you are responsible for your own work where indicated. Module review exercises and module quizzes are individual assignments. There will be two Supreme Court Simulations in this class and parts of these simulations involve group work.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the **Office of**

Student Conduct (http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/faq#students) for further action. See the **UCF Golden Rule** (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, **visit the UWC website** (http://www.uwc.ucf.edu), stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

You do not need to come to the UCF campus to receive help from a trained writing tutor. As a UCF student, you have access to writing tutors at the UCF Online Writing Center. You can **schedule an online consultation** (http://uwc.ucf.edu/schedule.php) with a writing tutor. You can get the help you need to complete the Final Report of your Civic Engagement Project online at a time convenient to you! This service is free to you.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with **Student Disability Services** (http://www.sds.ucf.edu/), Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Financial Aid Requirement

As of Fall, 2014, all faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please ***complete the the Syllabus Quiz by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course***. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Date	Details	
Fri Aug 28, 2015	**Evidence of Academic Engagement** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950717)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz: SOL in the Court System (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3960549)	due by 11:59pm
	Syllabus Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950766)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Aug 30, 2015	**Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 1-10, 699-710** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118113&include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Articles or Constitution? Pick One (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments	due by

Date	Details	
	/3950757)	11:59pm
	Introduction to U.S. Constitution Jeopardy (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310 /assignments/3950748)	due by 11:59pm
	Module Quiz: Introduction to the U.S. Constitution (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310 /assignments/3950715)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 6, 2015	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 11-48 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118112& include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Crossword Puzzle: U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses /1132310/assignments/3950734)	due by 11:59pm
	Identify Warren Court Members (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments /3950762)	due by 11:59pm
	Module Quiz: Understanding the U.S. Supreme Court (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses /1132310/assignments/3950726)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 13, 2015	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 57-119 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118111& include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Constraints on Judicial Power Hangman (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310 /assignments/3950758)	due by 11:59pm
	Matching Quiz: Judiciary Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments /3950733)	due by 11:59pm
	Module Quiz: Judicial Powers and Constraints (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310 /assignments/3950719)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 20, 2015	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 120-182 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118110& include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Identify Burger Court Members (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950752)	due by 11:59pm
	Matching Quiz: Legislative Powers Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310 /assignments/3950735)	due by 11:59pm
	Module Quiz: Legislative Powers and Constraints (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310 /assignments/3950721)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 27, 2015	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 183-256 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118109& include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Matching Quiz: Executive Powers Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310 /assignments/3950736)	due by 11:59pm
	Module Quiz: Executive Powers and Constraints (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310 /assignments/3950716)	due by 11:59pm
	Presidential Powers: Pick One (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950759)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 4, 2015	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 257-322 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118108& include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Identify Rehnquist Court Justices (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments /3950751)	due by 11:59pm
	Matching Quiz: SOP in Action Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments /3950737)	due by 11:59pm
	Module Quiz: Separation of Powers in Action (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310 /assignments/3950722)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Mon Oct 5, 2015	Simulation 1: Groups Assigned (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118098&include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Simulation 1: Meet Your Group & Plan Ahead (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3960453)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Oct 6, 2015	Simulation 1: Hypothetical Released via Announcement (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118095&include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
Thu Oct 8, 2015	Simulation 1: Post Your Own Memo. & Discuss Case (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950732)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 11, 2015	Simulation 1: Upload Your Group's Opinion(s) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950746)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 18, 2015	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 323-391 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118107&include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Identify Hughes Court Justices (1932-1937) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950763)	due by 11:59pm
	Matching Quiz: Federalism Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950738)	due by 11:59pm
	Module Quiz: Federalism (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950718)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 25, 2015	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 392-482 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118106&include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Federal Commerce Power: Pick True or False (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950753)	due by 11:59pm
	Matching Quiz: Federal Commerce Power Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950739)	due by 11:59pm
	Module Quiz: Federal Power to Regulate Commerce (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950724)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 1, 2015	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 482-502, 515-522, 550-564 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118105&include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Matching Quiz: Federal Tax and Spending Power Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950741)	due by 11:59pm
	Module Quiz: Federal Powers to Tax and Spend (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950720)	due by 11:59pm
	Tax Terminology Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950756)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 8, 2015	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 503-515, 522-549 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118104&include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Matching Quiz: State Power to Tax and Regulate Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3954831)	due by 11:59pm
	Module Quiz: State Powers to Regulate Commerce, Tax, and Spend (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950730)	due by 11:59pm
	State Power: Pick True or False (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950754)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 9, 2015	Simulation 2: Groups Assigned (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118094&include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Simulation 2: Meet Your New Group & Plan Ahead (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3960461)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Tue Nov 10, 2015	Simulation 2: Hypothetical Released via Announcement (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118092&include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
Thu Nov 12, 2015	Simulation 2: Post Your Own Memo. & Discuss Case (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950731)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 15, 2015	Simulation 2: Upload Your Group's Opinion(s) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950747)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 22, 2015	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 567-605 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118103&include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Contract Clause: Pick True or False (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950755)	due by 11:59pm
	Matching Quiz: Contract Clause Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950743)	due by 11:59pm
	Module Quiz: The Contract Clause (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950727)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 29, 2015	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 606-662 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118102&include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Matching Quiz: Economic Substantive Due Process Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950744)	due by 11:59pm
	Module Quiz: Economic Substantive Due Process (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950728)	due by 11:59pm
	Who Prevailed: Government or Business? (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950760)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 6, 2015	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 663-696 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1118101&include_contexts=course_1132310)	12am
	Matching Quiz: Takings Clause Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950745)	due by 11:59pm
	Module Quiz: The Takings Clause (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950729)	due by 11:59pm
	Who Prevailed: Government or Property Owner? Pick One (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950761)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 13, 2015	POS 4603 Final Exam, Fall 2015 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132310/assignments/3950723)	due by 11:59pm