POS4603-20Spring 0W60

Jump to Today ✎ Edit

Welcome to POS 4603: American Constitutional Law I: Institutional Powers & Constraints! Please study this syllabus carefully. It's written to answer questions you're likely to have and help maximize your performance in this class. After studying this syllabus, proceed to the Start Here Module (link at bottom of page) which includes a Syllabus Quiz.

Instructor Contact

- Instructor: Barry Edwards, J.D., Ph.D. (About Me)
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Course Information

- Course Name: American Constitutional Law I
- Course ID & Section: POS 4603-20Spring 0W60
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Spring 2020
- 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

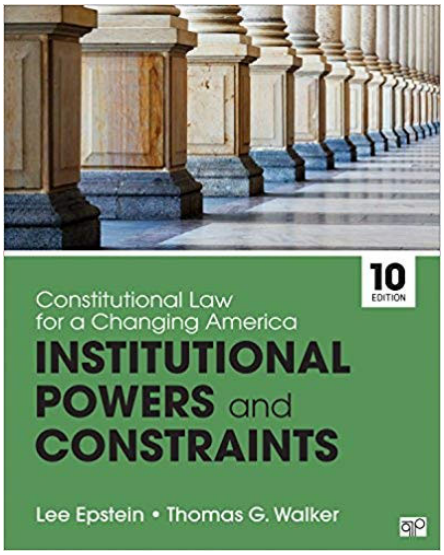
The objective of this course is to introduce you to the important role that the United States Constitution has in

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. *Constitutional Law for a Changing America: Institutional Powers and Constraints, Tenth Edition.* (Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, an Imprint of Sage Publications, Inc. 2020). ISBN-13: 978-1544317908, ISBN-10: 1544317905. **Make sure you buy Volume I with the **green cover** (see image below) not Volume II with the blue cover.** **See on Amazon** **(https://www.amazon.com/Constitutional-Law-Changing-America-Institutional/dp/1544317905/ref=sr_1_1?qid=1561046345)** .



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** (50%) – There are fifteen (15) numbered modules. Each numbered module contains a quiz which include multiple choice, true false questions, and a short answer question. Your lowest module quiz score will be dropped.
2. **Module Review Exercises** (15%) – Each numbered module contains two graded review exercises, such as crossword puzzles, matching games, etc. Your lowest two module review exercise scores will be dropped.
3. **Small Group Discussions** (15%) – Each numbered module includes a small group discussion of a constitutional problem or issue. Each student will be assigned to a small group of 6-7 students. Your lowest small group

discussion score will be dropped.

4. **Final Exam** (20%) – 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.

Course Policies

- Workload Expectations +
- Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit +
- Late Work +
- Grading Scale +
- Grades of "Incomplete" +
- Group Work +
- Academic Honesty +
- Professionalism Policy +
- University Writing Center +
- Disability Statement +
- Emergency Procedures and Campus Safety +
- Accommodations for Active Duty Military Students +
- Religious Observances +
- Copyright +
- Third-Party Software and FERPA +
- Financial Aid Requirement +

START HERE MODULE

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Mon Jan 6, 2020	Start Module/Week 01 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779290&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am

Date	Details	
	UCF Classes Begin (Spring 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779301&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
	Quiz: SOL in the Court System (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379773)	due by 11:59pm
	Syllabus Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379759)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 8, 2020	Articles or Constitution? Pick One (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379788)	due by 11:59pm
	Introduction to U.S. Constitution Jeopardy (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379797)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 9, 2020	Drop/Swap Deadline (Spring 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779304&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Fri Jan 10, 2020	Add Deadline (Spring 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779305&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
	Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379755)	due by 5pm
Sat Jan 11, 2020	Practice Quiz: Introduction to U.S. Constitution (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379768)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 12, 2020	Module 1 Quiz: Intro. to the U.S. Constitution (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379753)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 13, 2020	Start Module/Week 02 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779289&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Wed Jan 15, 2020	Crossword Puzzle: U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379790)	due by 11:59pm
	Identify the Warren Court Justices (may require internet research) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379796)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 16, 2020	Small Group Discussion: The Supreme Court's Opinion Writing Process (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379776)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 17, 2020	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779291&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sat Jan 18, 2020	Practice Quiz: Understanding the U.S. Supreme Court (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379743)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 19, 2020	Module 2 Quiz: Understanding the U.S. Supreme Court (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379770)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 20, 2020	Start Module/Week 03 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779288&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Wed Jan 22, 2020	Constraints on Judicial Power Hangman (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379789)	due by 11:59pm
	Matching Quiz: Judiciary Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379803)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Thu Jan 23, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Getting the Court to Make Hard Decisions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379777)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 24, 2020	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779292&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sat Jan 25, 2020	Practice Quiz: Judicial Powers and Constraints (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379772)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 26, 2020	Module 3 Quiz: Judicial Powers and Constraints (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379751)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 27, 2020	Start Module/Week 04 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779287&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Wed Jan 29, 2020	Identify Burger Court Members (may require internet research) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379794)	due by 11:59pm
	Matching Quiz: Legislative Powers Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379804)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 30, 2020	Small Group Discussion: The Clean and Accountable Congress Act (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379778)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 31, 2020	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779298&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sat Feb 1, 2020	Practice Quiz: Legislative Powers and Constraints (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379756)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 2, 2020	Module 4 Quiz: Legislative Powers and Constraints (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379754)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 3, 2020	Start Module/Week 05 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779286&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Wed Feb 5, 2020	Matching Quiz: Executive Powers Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379799)	due by 11:59pm
	Presidential Powers: Pick One (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379809)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 6, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Firing Executive Branch Officials (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379779)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 7, 2020	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779293&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sat Feb 8, 2020	Practice Quiz: Executive Powers and Constraints (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379766)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 9, 2020	Module 5 Quiz: Executive Powers and Constraints (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379765)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 10, 2020	Start Module/Week 06 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779285&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am

Date	Details	
Wed Feb 12, 2020	Identify Rehnquist Court Justices (may require internet research) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379795)	due by 11:59pm
	Matching Quiz: Separation of Powers in Domestic Affairs (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379806)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 13, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Fiscal Discipline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379780)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 14, 2020	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779294&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sat Feb 15, 2020	Practice Quiz: Separation of Powers in Domestic Affairs (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379764)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 16, 2020	Module 6 Quiz: Separation of Powers in Domestic Affairs (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379758)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 17, 2020	Start Module/Week 07 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779284&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Wed Feb 19, 2020	Foreign Affairs Power of President or Congress? (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379792)	due by 11:59pm
	U(SA) Better Recognize (May require internet research) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379812)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 20, 2020	Small Group Discussion: An Embassy in Jerusalem (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379785)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 21, 2020	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779295&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sat Feb 22, 2020	Practice Quiz: Separation of Powers in Foreign Affairs (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379748)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 23, 2020	Module 7 Quiz: Separation of Powers in Foreign Affairs (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379742)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 24, 2020	Start Module/Week 08 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779283&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Wed Feb 26, 2020	Federalism Hangman: Name that State (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379791)	due by 11:59pm
	Matching Quiz: Federalism Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379800)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 27, 2020	Small Group Discussion: State of Florico's Tourism Promotion Program (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379787)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 28, 2020	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779296&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sat Feb 29, 2020	Practice Quiz: Federalism (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379746)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Sun Mar 1, 2020	Module 8 Quiz: Federalism (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379767)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 2, 2020	Start Module/Week 09 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779282&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Wed Mar 4, 2020	Historic Foundations of Federal Commerce Power: Pick True or False (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379793)	due by 11:59pm
	Matching Quiz: Historic Era Commerce Power Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379802)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 5, 2020	Small Group Discussion: W.G. Harding & Sons Fishingpacking Corp. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379786)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 6, 2020	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779297&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sat Mar 7, 2020	Practice Quiz: Historical Foundations of Federal Power to Regulate Commerce (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379750)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 8, 2020	Module 9 Quiz: Historical Foundations of Federal Power to Regulate Commerce (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379752)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 9, 2020	UCF Spring Break starts (Spring 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779309&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Mon Mar 16, 2020	Start Module/Week 10 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779281&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Wed Mar 18, 2020	Matching Quiz: Modern Era Commerce Power Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379805)	due by 11:59pm
	Who Nominated Current Supreme Court Justices? (may require internet research) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379813)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 19, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Revising the Violence Against Women Act (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379775)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 20, 2020	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779299&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
	Withdrawal deadline (Spring 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779308&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sat Mar 21, 2020	Practice Quiz: Federal Power to Regulate Commerce in the Modern Era (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379744)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 22, 2020	Module 10 Quiz: Federal Power to Regulate Commerce in Modern Era (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379757)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 23, 2020	Start Module/Week 11 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779280&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Wed Mar 25, 2020	Matching Quiz: Federal Tax and Spending Power Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379801)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
	Tax Terminology Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379811)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 26, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Preparing Highways for Self-Driving Cars (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379781)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 27, 2020	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779300&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sat Mar 28, 2020	Practice Quiz: Federal Powers to Tax and Spend (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379769)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 29, 2020	Module 11 Quiz: Federal Powers to Tax and Spend (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379745)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 30, 2020	Start Module/Week 12 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779279&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Wed Apr 1, 2020	Matching Quiz: State Power to Tax and Regulate Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379807)	due by 11:59pm
	State Power: Pick True or False (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379810)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 2, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Florico's Tax on Self-Driving Car Fares (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379782)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 3, 2020	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779306&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sat Apr 4, 2020	Practice Quiz: State Powers to Regulate Commerce, Tax, and Spend (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379763)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 5, 2020	Module 12 Quiz: State Powers to Regulate Commerce, Tax, and Spend (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379774)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 6, 2020	Start Module/Week 13 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779278&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Wed Apr 8, 2020	Matching Quiz: Economic Substantive Due Process Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379798)	due by 11:59pm
	Who Prevailed: Government or Business? (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379814)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 9, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Pay Per Click Workforce (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379783)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 10, 2020	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779307&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sat Apr 11, 2020	Practice Quiz: Economic Substantive Due Process (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379762)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 12, 2020	Module 13 Quiz: Economic Substantive Due Process (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379761)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Mon Apr 13, 2020	Start Module/Week 14 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779277&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Wed Apr 15, 2020	Matching Quiz: Takings Clause Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379808)	due by 11:59pm
	Who Prevailed: Government or Property Owner? Pick One (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379815)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 16, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Florico's Sharking Tracking System (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379784)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 17, 2020	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779275&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sat Apr 18, 2020	Practice Quiz: The Takings Clause (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379749)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 19, 2020	Module 14 Quiz: The Takings Clause (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379760)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 20, 2020	Start Studying for Final Exam (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779276&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
	UCF Classes End (Spring 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779302&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
Sun Apr 26, 2020	POS 4603 Final Exam, Spring 2020 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379747)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 30, 2020	Grades Due to UCF by noon (Spring 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779303&include_contexts=course_1342797)	12am
	Practice Quiz: Bonus Module (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342797/assignments/6379771)	