

Constitutional Studies (CNST)

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CNST 2600. Comparative Constitutionalism. (3 Credits)

Prerequisite(s): POLS 1000 or POLS 1100

Compares and contrasts the political, social and economic aspects of the origins, drafting, and development of constitutions across the globe.

CNST 3870. Constitutional History to Plessy 1896. (3 Credits)

Prerequisite(s): University Advanced Standing

Explores, in a critical and historical framework, US Constitutional history to Plessy (1896). Examines the origins and general principles of Constitutional thought, including the Colonial, Confederate, Early Republic, and Civil War periods of early US history. Examines the various Constitutional issues relating to judicial review, national supremacy, slavery, secession, the Civil War, and laissez-faire governmental policies.

CNST 3880. Constitutional History Since Plessy 1896. (3 Credits)

Prerequisite(s): University Advanced Standing

Explores, in a critical and historical framework, US Constitutional history since Plessy (1896). Examines the development of the US Constitution from the late nineteenth century to the present day, with special attention being given to the progressive era, the New Deal, liberal constitutionalism, and the US Supreme Court's interpretations of civil rights and civil liberties.

CNST 4720. Foundations of American Constitutionalism. (3 Credits)

Prerequisite(s): (POLS 1000 or POLS 1100 or instructor approval) and University Advanced Standing

Examines the political and constitutional foundations of the American Constitution, from the English Charter of Liberties in 1100 AD to the United States Bill Rights of 1791. Employs a comparative analysis of early Anglo-American constitutional thought, with special attention being given to the writings of prominent 17th century and 18th century constitutional theorists (e.g., Coke, Bacon, Burke, Penn, Dickinson, Mason, Adams, Madison, Marshall).

CNST 4730. Framing of the US Constitution. (3 Credits)

Prerequisite(s): CNST 4720 and University Advanced Standing

Examines the political and constitutional arguments of the Framers of the Federal Constitutional Convention. Discusses the strengths and weaknesses of the Constitution and the alternative language and plans presented at the Convention. Examines the ratification of the Constitution, focusing on the Anti-Federalists' critique and the Federalists' defense of that historic document. Employs a critical analysis of the political factors affecting the drafting and ratifying of the Constitution.

CNST 4790. US Constitution. (3 Credits)

Prerequisite(s): (POLS 1100 or POLS 1000) and University Advanced Standing

Examines the United States Constitution as the political blueprint of American national government. Explores the basic constitutional powers and structures of the federal government and the prominent political and constitutional conflicts among its executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Addresses such key elements of constitutional design as limited and empowered government, enumerated and implied powers, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, and the Bill of Rights. Employs a critical analysis of modern constitutional politics.

CNST 4795. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. (3 Credits)

Prerequisite(s): CNST 4790 and University Advanced Standing

Examines, with a critical lens, the political and constitutional aspects of the origins, drafting, and development of The Bill of Rights, the Modern Civil Rights Movements, and the Ninth, Tenth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Nineteenth Amendments to the Constitution.

CNST 490R. Issues and Topics in Constitutional Studies. (3 Credits)

Prerequisite(s): (POLS 1000 or POLS 1100) and University Advanced Standing

Surveys a specific topic in constitutional studies. Topic varies each semester. With the approval of the department chair or coordinator, students may repeat the course for a maximum of 9 credits toward graduation.

CNST 491R. Independent Study. (1-4 Credits)

Prerequisite(s): (POLS 1000 or POLS 1100), Instructor Approval, and University Advanced Standing

Provides independent study for students unable to secure a desired course subject matter within regular curriculum offerings. Requires student and instructor design and complete readings and other projects at the upper division level, with the approval of the department chair or coordinator. May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits toward graduation.