Course Description

An overview of the principles and practical analysis of significant case law applicable to the U.S. Constitution, emphasizing search and seizure, arrest, civil rights, related amendments, due process, and the judicial system.

Prerequisites

None

Course Textbook


Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Summarize and analyze the historical context that led to the creation of the U.S. Constitution.
2. Analyze the reasons for the establishment of the Bill of Rights and the need to guarantee freedoms.
3. Explain and analyze the provisions of constitutional law and its relationship to enacting state laws.
4. Explain the process of legislation and creation of law.
5. Explain the guidelines on how to read a Supreme Court case.
6. Distinguish and give examples of the differences between judicial, legislative and executive powers.
7. Summarize and explain the protection of civil rights and liberties and due process.
8. Explain the processes of freedom of individual expression and property rights.
9. Describe and apply the use of the constitution to the criminal justice system and to contemporary society.
10. Explain the authority and protections of arrest, search and seizure and right to counsel.

Credits

Upon completion of this course, the students will earn three (3) hours of college credit.

Course Structure

1. **Unit Learning Outcomes:** Each unit contains Unit Learning Outcomes that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
2. **Unit Lesson:** Each unit contains a Unit Lesson, which discusses unit material.
3. **Reading Assignments:** Each unit contains Reading Assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook. Supplemental Readings are provided in the Unit I, II, IV, and V study guides to aid students in their course of study.
4. **Key Terms:** Key Terms are intended to guide students in their course of study. Students should pay particular attention to Key Terms as they represent important concepts within the unit material and reading.
5. **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** These non-graded Learning Activities are provided in each unit to aid students in their course of study.
6. **Discussion Boards:** Discussion Boards are a part of all CSU term courses. Information and specifications regarding these assignments are provided in the Academic Policies listed in the Course Menu bar.
7. **Unit Assessments:** This course contains eight Unit Assessments, one to be completed at the end of each unit. Assessments are composed of written response questions.

8. **Unit Assignments:** Students are required to submit for grading Unit Assignments in Units II, III, V, and VII. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below. Grading rubrics are included with all assignments. Specific information about accessing these rubrics is provided below.

9. **Ask the Professor:** This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.

10. **Student Break Room:** This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates.

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**CSU Online Library**

There is a virtual library with resources, including both journals and ebooks, to support your program and your course at Columbia Southern University. eResources are accessible 24 hours a day/7 days a week from the CSU Online Library gateway page. To access the library, log into myCSU, and then click on CSU Online Library. Resources are organized in the library by title, but if you click on Research Guides, you will find eResources arranged by subject.

The Library Reference service is available 7 days a week; you can reach CSU's virtual librarians by emailing thevirtuallibrarian@columbiasouthern.edu. These professional librarians will be glad to help you develop your research plan or to assist you in any way in finding relevant, appropriate, and timely information.

Librarian responses may occur within minutes or hours, but it will never take more than 24 hours for a librarian to send a response to the email address you have provided. Replies to reference requests may include customized keyword search strategies, links to videos, research guides, screen captures, attachments, a phone call, live screen sharing, and meeting room appointments, as well as other forms of instruction.

**Unit Assignments**

**Unit II Assignment**

**Case Brief**

For the Unit II Assignment, you will write a case brief on one of the following cases:


Choose one of the above cases, Begin by researching and reading your selected case in its entirety at [http://scholar.google.com](http://scholar.google.com). Next, you will brief this case by following the requirements outlined in the below PDF.

Click [here](http://scholar.google.com) to view the PDF of the Briefing a Case PowerPoint Presentation.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.
Unit III Research Paper

Below is a list of six topics in which you may choose to write. Each topic addresses a major Supreme Court case concerning a specific amendment to the United States Constitution and a leading case relating to that amendment. All these areas will be covered during the course, and you can find a lot of material in your textbook, but you will be expected to go into greater depth using at least three sources on the topic (one of which can be your textbook). Use these sources to discuss the history of this area of law, how your case changed the law in this area, current trends, and your conclusions about the area of law.

Topics to write on are:

- The change in the Second Amendment right to bear arms since United States v. Miller (1939)
- The change in the Fifth Amendment right to remain silent since Miranda v. Arizona (1966).
- The change in Fourth Amendment stop and frisk law since Terry v. Ohio (1968).
- The change in Fourth Amendment exclusionary rule since Mapp v. Ohio (1961).
- The change in Eighth Amendment cruel and unusual punishment standards in death penalty cases since Furman v. Georgia (1972).

Your assignment for this unit will be to choose one of these above topics and write a short paragraph telling your instructor which topic you have chosen and why you decided to choose this particular area of law.

**NOTE:** You will continue to use this topic in Unit V and VII of the course. In Unit V, you will then research and write a rough draft on your chosen topic. After you receive feedback from your instructor you will have until Unit VII to make your revisions and submit your final draft.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit V Research Paper

Your assignment for Unit V is to research and write a rough draft on your chosen topic (listed in the Unit III Research Paper.) After you receive feedback from your instructor, you will have until Unit VII to make your revisions and submit your final draft.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VII Research Paper

Your assignment for Unit VII is to make your revisions using your professor’s feedback and submit your final draft.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**APA Guidelines**

CSU requires that students use the APA style for papers and projects. Therefore, the APA rules for formatting, quoting, paraphrasing, citing, and listing of sources are to be followed. A document titled “APA Guide” is available for you to download from the APA Guide link, found in the Learning Resources area of the myCSU Student Portal. It may also be accessed from the Student Resources link on the Course Menu. This document includes examples and sample papers and provides links to The CSU Success Center and the CSU Online Library staff.

**Blackboard Grading Rubrics**

**Assignment Rubrics**

One or more assignments in this course utilizes a Blackboard Grading Rubric. A rubric is a tool that lists evaluation criteria and can help you organize your efforts to meet the requirements of an assignment. Your professor will use the Blackboard Grading Rubric to assign points and provide feedback for the assignment.
You are encouraged to view the assignment rubric before submitting your work. This will allow you to review the evaluation criteria as you prepare your assignments. You may access the rubric in “My Grades” through the “Tools” button in your course menu. Click the “View Rubric” link to see the evaluation criteria for the assignment. Upon receiving your assignment grade, you may view your grade breakdown and feedback in the rubric.

CSU Grading Rubric for Papers/Projects

The course papers will be graded based on the CSU Grading Rubric for all types of papers, unless otherwise specified within assignment instructions. In addition, all papers will be submitted for electronic evaluation to rule out plagiarism. Course projects will contain project specific grading criteria defined in the project directions. To view the rubric, click the Academic Policies link on the Course Menu, or access it through the CSU Grading Rubric link found in the Learning Resources area of the myCSU Student Portal.

Communication Forums

These are non-graded discussion forums that allow you to communicate with your professor and other students. Participation in these discussion forums is encouraged, but not required. You can access these forums with the buttons in the Course Menu. Instructions for subscribing/unsubscribing to these forums are provided below.

Click here for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and post to the Communication Forums.

Ask the Professor

This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content questions. Questions may focus on Blackboard locations of online course components, textbook or course content elaboration, additional guidance on assessment requirements, or general advice from other students.

Questions that are specific in nature, such as inquiries regarding assessment/assignment grades or personal accommodation requests, are NOT to be posted on this forum. If you have questions, comments, or concerns of a non-public nature, please feel free to email your professor. Responses to your post will be addressed or emailed by the professor within 48 hours.

Before posting, please ensure that you have read all relevant course documentation, including the syllabus, assessment/assignment instructions, faculty feedback, and other important information.

Student Break Room

This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates. Communication on this forum should always maintain a standard of appropriateness and respect for your fellow classmates. This forum should NOT be used to share assessment answers.

Grading

- Discussion Boards (8 @ 2%) = 16%
- Unit Assessments (8 @ 7%) = 56%
- Research Papers (3 @ 7%) = 21%
- Assignment = 7%
- Total = 100%

Course Schedule/Checklist (PLEASE PRINT)

The following pages contain a printable Course Schedule to assist you through this course. By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted.
By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted. Please keep this schedule for reference as you progress through your course.

### Unit I: Historical Overview of the Constitution and the U.S. Judicial System

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 1: An Historical Overview
- Chapter 2: An Overview of the U.S. Legal System
- Appendix A: The Declaration of Independence
- Appendix B: The United States Constitution and Amendments
- **Supplemental Reading:** (See Study Guide)

**Discuss:**
- Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Submit:**
- Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Notes/Goals:**

### Unit II: The U.S. Supreme Court and Researching the Law

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 3: The U. S. Supreme Court: The Final Word
- Chapter 4: Researching the Law
- Appendix B: The United States Constitution and Amendments
- Additional Required Reading: See Study Guide
- **Supplemental Reading:** (See Study Guide)

**Discuss:**
- Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)
- **Discussion Board Comment:** Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Submit:**
- Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)
- **Assignment** by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Notes/Goals:**
## Unit III
### The First and Second Amendments

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 6: The First Amendment: Basic Freedoms
- Chapter 7: The Second Amendment: The Gun Control Controversy

**Discuss:**
- **Discussion Board Response:** Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)
- **Discussion Board Comment:** Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Submit:**
- Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)
- Research Paper by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Notes/Goals:**

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## Unit IV
### An Overview of the Fourth Amendment and Constitutional Seizures

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 8: The Fourth Amendment: An Overview of Constitutional Searches and Seizures
- Chapter 9: Conducting Constitutional Seizures
- **Supplemental Reading:** (See Study Guide)

**Discuss:**
- **Discussion Board Response:** Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)
- **Discussion Board Comment:** Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Submit:**
- Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Notes/Goals:**
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<th>Unit V</th>
<th>The Fourth Amendment and the Law of Searches</th>
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<td>Review:</td>
<td>Unit Study Guide&lt;br&gt;<strong>Learning Activities (Non-Graded):</strong> See Study Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read:</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Conducting Constitutional Searches&lt;br&gt;<strong>Supplemental Reading:</strong> (See Study Guide)</td>
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<th>Unit VI</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review:</td>
<td>Unit Study Guide&lt;br&gt;<strong>Learning Activities (Non-Graded):</strong> See Study Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read:</td>
<td>Chapter 11: The Fifth Amendment: Obtaining Information Legally</td>
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<tr>
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Notes/Goals:
### Unit VII  
#### The Sixth and Eighth Amendments

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- **Chapter 12:** The Sixth Amendment: The Right to Counsel and a Fair Trial
- **Chapter 13:** The Eighth Amendment: Bail, Fines and Punishment

**Discuss:**
- **Discussion Board Response:** Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)
- **Discussion Board Comment:** Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Submit:**
- **Assessment** by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)
- **Research Paper** by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

### Unit VIII  
#### Equal Protection under the Law and the Remaining Amendments

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- **Chapter 5:** Equal Protection under the Law: Balancing Individual, State and Federal Rights.
- **Chapter 14:** The Remaining Amendments and a Return to the Constitution.

**Discuss:**
- **Discussion Board Response:** Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)
- **Discussion Board Comment:** Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Submit:**
- **Assessment** by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

Notes/Goals: