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

BCJ 2000 & BCJ 3601

Course Textbook


Course Learning Objectives

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 Objectives:** Each unit contains Unit Learning Objectives that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
2. **Written Lectures:** Each unit contains a Written Lecture, which discusses lesson material.
3. **Reading Assignments:** Each unit contains Reading Assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook. Supplemental Readings are provided in the unit 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. **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.
6. **Unit Assessments:** This course contains eight Unit Assessments, one to be completed at the end of each unit.
7. **Unit Assignments:** Students are required to submit for grading Unit Assignments in Units II, IV, VI, and VIII. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below. Grading rubrics are included with the Unit II, IV, VI, and VIII Assignments. Specific information about accessing these rubrics is provided below.

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

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

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**Unit Assignments**

**Units II, IV, and VI Article Critiques**

For each of these Assignments, choose a peer-reviewed article to critique related to constitutional law. This may be a journal article or a case study of your choosing. Use the databases within the CSU Online Library or use another source that contains peer-reviewed articles (e.g., Google scholar). The purpose of this Assignment is for you to practice reviewing articles that contribute to the profession. The authors of these articles are researchers and professionals that have shared or experimented with ideas that demonstrate potential to improve the profession. As a professional, it is in your best interest to review the literature and trends. This provides you with the opportunity to read about what was successful and how they accomplished it. Plus, it allows you to analyze what was unsuccessful, how you can improve it, or at least not repeat the mistakes of others. Use these skills to contribute to research papers and other scholarly writing. If you have not already, hopefully you will contribute to the profession by publishing an article and sharing with your community of peers.

As you read the article, consider the following questions: How could the topic of this article apply to your personal or professional life? How could it apply to an organization you have observed?

The article you choose must meet the following requirements:

- Peer reviewed;
- Related to the concepts within this course; and
- At least six pages in length.

The writing you submit must meet the following requirements:

- At least two pages;
- Identify the main topic/question;
- Identify the author’s intended audience;
- Summarize the article for page one;
- Describe the strengths and weaknesses of article for page two; and
- Conclude with your own thoughts on the article and how it relates to the objectives for this unit.

Format your article critique using APA Style. Use your own words and include citations for other articles as needed to avoid plagiarism.

**Unit VIII Case Study**

Go to the Department of Justice website, [http://www.usdoj.gov/](http://www.usdoj.gov/) (or a website that contains case studies) and research case studies pertinent to search and seizure or another topic related to this unit. Once you finish reading the Case Study, you need to answer the following questions in a minimum two page paper with appropriate APA style writing:

- Summarize the Case Study.
- Critically analyze the premise of the case and determine whether the plaintiff had validity in his or her case. Describe why or why not.
- Review the court’s decision and describe whether it was the right decision. What elements played into the court’s decision? If you were the judge, would you have ruled differently?
- Conclude with your own thoughts on the case.
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 Guidelines Summary” 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 provides links to several internet sites that provide comprehensive information on APA formatting, including examples and sample papers.

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. 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 by accessing 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 Board (8 @ 2%) = 16%
Unit Assessments (8 @ 7%) = 56%
Unit Assignments (4 @ 7%) = 28%
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: Introduction to Constitutional Law

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 1: Introduction to Constitutional Law
- Appendix A: The Constitution of the United States
- Appendix B: Historical Documents
- 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)

### Unit II: Federal Judicial Power

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 3: Federal Judicial Power
- Appendix C: Legal Documents—Constitutional Law and the Courts
- 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)
- Article Critique by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

### Unit III: Federal Legislative and Executive Power

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 4: Federal Legislative Powers
- Chapter 5: Federal Executive Power
- 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:
### Unit IV: State Powers

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<th><strong>Review:</strong></th>
<th>☐ Unit Study Guide</th>
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| **Read:**            | ☐ Chapter 6: State Powers and the Constitution  
                      | ☐ 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)  
                      | ☐ Article Critique by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time) |

**Notes/Goals:**

### Unit V: Civil Rights and Equal Protection

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| **Read:**            | ☐ Chapter 7: Constitutional Protections of Civil Rights and Liberties  
                      | ☐ Chapter 8: Equal Protection  
                      | ☐ 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:**

### Unit VI: Due Process and Property Rights

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| **Read:**            | ☐ Chapter 9: Due Process  
                      | ☐ Chapter 10: Economic Freedom and Property Rights  
                      | ☐ 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)  
                      | ☐ Article Critique by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time) |

**Notes/Goals:**
### Unit VII: Freedom of Expression, Religion and Privacy

| Review: | □ Unit Study Guide |
| Read: | □ Chapter 11: Freedom of Expression  
□ Chapter 12: Freedom of Religion  
□ Chapter 13: The Right to Privacy Under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses  
□ 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:**

### Unit VIII: Criminal Justice

| Review: | □ Unit Study Guide |
| Read: | □ Chapter 14: Criminal Justice and the Constitution  
□ 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)  
□ Case Study by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time) |

**Notes/Goals:**