

# North Hennepin Community College

## **POLS 2130: Constitutional Law**

### **A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: \*.\*

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites:

This course requires either of these prerequisites

POLS 1100 - American Government and Politics

SOC 1710 - Introduction to Criminal Justice

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

This course will acquaint students with the content of the United States Constitution and its amendments; its interpretations within political, social, and historical contexts; and will examine the reasoning process in major judicial decisions.

Prerequisite: Soc 1710 or PolS 1100

### **B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 09/10/1997 - Present**

### **C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS**

1. Jurisdiction and organization of the federal courts
2. The Constitution, the Supreme court, and judicial review
3. Judicial powers
4. Congressional powers
5. Separation of powers
6. Representative government, voting rights, and the electoral process
7. National taxing and spending power
8. Substantive due process
9. Rights of the accused/criminal justice; cruel and unusual punishment
10. Presidential powers
11. Federalism
12. The commerce clause
13. Property rights and development of due process
14. Nationalization of the Bill of Rights
15. Freedom of expression and association
16. Religious liberty
17. Privacy
18. Equal protection
19. Security and freedom in wartime

#### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Build a basic understanding of US constitutional law:
  - a) Identify the content of the US Constitution and its amendments (NHCC ELO 1)
  - b) Explain how the US Constitution has been interpreted within different political, social, and historical contexts (NHCC ELO 1)
  - c) Describe and critically assess the reasoning process in major judicial decisions (NHCC ELOs 1, 2)
2. Employ the methods and data that political scientists use to investigate the human condition (MnTC Goal 2, 5a; NHCC ELO 2)
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories (MnTC Goal 5c; NHCC ELO 3)
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues (MnTC Goal 5d; NHCC ELO 1)

#### **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

#### **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

#### **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

1. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World--Through study in the sciences, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, the arts, technology and professions.
2. Intellectual and Practical Skills--Including: Inquiry and analysis; Critical and creative thinking; Written and oral communication; Quantitative literacy; Information literacy; Teamwork and problem solving.
3. Personal and Social Responsibility and Engagement--Including: Civic knowledge and involvement--campus, local and global; Intercultural knowledge and competence; Ethical reasoning and action; Foundations and skills for lifelong learning.