

Inver Hills Community College

POLS 1161: Introduction to Constitutional Law

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

Provides students with an overview of the nature and scope of American Constitutional rights and liberties based upon the United States Constitution as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court. In your exploration of contemporary U.S. Constitutional issues, you will critically examine your own political values, experiences and behaviors.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 01/01/1998 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Bill of Rights 10%
2. Protection of Economic Liberties 10%
3. Fundamental Rights 10%
4. Equal Protection of the Laws 10%
5. Powers of Congress 10%
6. Executive Power 10%
7. Judicial Power 10%
8. State Powers and Individual Rights 10%
9. The Constitution in War and Emergency 10%
10. The Reach of the Constitution 10%

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Explore Constitutional Law through the Political Science discipline.
2. Recognize the diversity of political motives and interests of others.
3. Analyze political ideologies and explain how these lead to different goals and political conflict.
4. Examine the relationships among various values, principles, institutions, and traditions, as well as the economic, political, legal, and social orders.
5. Analyze the empirical and normative dimensions of political relationships.
6. Apply core concepts such as rights, obligations, justice, liberty, power, and (in)equality to specific legal and constitutional issues.
7. Understand the U.S. Constitution, specifically the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment, and the rights of the accused as interpreted by the Supreme Court.
8. Analyze Supreme Court decisions and their societal impact.

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

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted