
This course is the first of a two-part series introducing the basic concepts in American constitutional law. This class surveys the development of American constitutional law, with an emphasis on how the structures of government (including separation of powers, federalism, and executive authority) have changed over time. However, this course is different than "traditional" constitutional law courses that often place a near-exclusive emphasis on United States Supreme Court legal doctrine. While we will explore the role of important decisions of the Supreme Court in the development of American constitutionalism, a chief theme of this course is that the Court is not alone in articulating constitutional rules and principles. Congress, (e)8(d)-4()-15(gred)-4(bTJ{Su)-5(p)-4(r)9(em)-2mv(r)9(em)-2me(gress,35(e2)-311 0

(1) *Class Participation and On Call Presentation (20%)*. Active participation will be an important

- (3) Quizzes (10%). There will be four quizzes throughout the semester, each containing a mix of multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions. Each quiz will be worth 2.5% of your final grade.

NOTE:

In this schedule, "GGW" refers to the main textbook for the course and "Powe" refers to the second required book. An asterisk ("*") next to a reading indicates material I will post on D2L prior to class.

8/26 (M): Course Introduction

8/28 (W): The

9/9 (M): The Establishment of Judicial Review

10/14 (M): _____

10/16 (W): The Court Against the Political Tide

(1) GW, Chapter 7 (pp. 354-377)

368-376);

(pp. 359-362);
(pp. 365-367);

(pp. 376-377)

(pp. 363-364);

(pp.

10/21 (M): The Court Against the Political Tide, _____

(1) GW, Chapter 7 (pp. 389-401)

(pp. 397-401)

(pp. 393-396);

(2) *

(3) Powe, Chapter 6 t "Industrializing America" . 515.86 206.45 reW* nBT/F3 12 Tf1 0 0 1 181.1 5093

11/4 (M): The New Deal and the Emergence of the Modern Presidency

- (1) _____
- (2) U.S. Constitution, Article II (GGW, pp. 718-719)
- (3) GGW, Chapter 8 (pp. 490-502)
- (4) * _____ pp. 493-502

11/6 (W): Executive Powers in Times of War

- (1) GGW, Chapter 9 (pp. 543-553)
- (2) GGW, Chapter 11 (pp. 686-708)
- _____ (pp. 550-553)
- _____ (pp. 701-708)

11/11 (M): Executive Privilege and Presidential Immunity

- (1) GGW, Chapter 9 (pp. 553-558)
- (2) GGW, Chapter 11 (pp. 711-714)
- _____ (pp. 553-558)



As part of the requirements of this course, you will complete two short essays over the course of the semester. Each essay will respond to one of the following questions listed below, and each option has a different due date. You will respond to one of the first-half essays _____ one of the second-half essays. You must submit your essays to Turnitin.com and provide a hard copy of each essay by the start of class on the listed due date.

Each essay should be completed in three double-spaced pages or less, using standard fonts (e.g. 12-point Times New Roman, Calibri, etc.) and margins (1"). Most importantly, each essay should demonstrate your close reading of, and active engagement with, the cases and texts that are relevant to answering the questions. None of these essays requires any additional or outside reading. What I am looking for is a clear argument of your own that responds to the assigned question and that is supported by a careful, detailed, and thoughtful discussion of the materials we have read. This support should include specific references and quotations to the readings, and you should be sure to provide page citations for each one.
