

## Constitutional Law Syllabus – Spring 2024

Class #	Date	Covered in Class	Assignment	Assignment Due
N/A	N/A	N/A	Read Text pgs. 15-29 (Original Intent), Read Text pgs. 31-47 (Historical Background of Constitution)	1/9/24
1	1/9/24	Judicial Philosophy Historical Background of U.S. Constitution	Read Text pgs. 113-147 ( <i>Marbury vs. Madison</i> , and <i>City of Boerne v. Flores</i> )	1/16/24
2	1/16/24	How to Brief a Case Judicial Power and the Doctrine of Judicial Supremacy	Read Text pgs. 149-166 Read handout “How to Brief a Legal Case” Brief <i>Youngstown Sheet &amp; Tube v. Sawyer</i> Brief <i>Curtiss-Wright Export Corp.</i>	1/23/24
3	1/23/24	Executive Power	Read Text pgs. 167-192 and excerpt of <i>Wickard v. Fillburn</i> , Brief (1) <i>Schechter Poultry</i> , (2) <i>Katzenbach</i> , and (3) <i>Wickard</i>	1/30/24
4	1/30/24	Commerce Clause Part I	Read Text pgs. 193-222 and excerpt of <i>National Federation of Indep. Bus. v. Sebelius</i> Brief (1) <i>US v. Lopez</i> and (2) Individual Mandate section of <i>NFIB v. Sebelius</i>	2/6/24
5	2/6/24	Commerce Clause Part II	Read Text pgs. 223-238 Brief (1) <i>US v. Butler</i> and (2) <i>South Dakota v. Dole</i>	2/13/24
6	2/13/24	Tax & Spend Clause	Read Text pgs. 239-289; <b>Commerce Clause paper Assignment handed out (due 3/19)</b> Brief (1) <i>Marsh v. Chambers</i> and (2) <i>Wallace v. Jaffree</i>	2/20/24
7	2/20/24	Establishment Clause Part I	Read Text pgs. 291-309 Brief (1) <i>Witters v. Washington</i> and (2) <i>Widmar v. Vincent</i>	2/27/24
8	2/27/24	Establishment Clause Part II	Read Text pgs. 311-341, Brief (1) <i>Murdock v. Pennsylvania</i> , and (2) <i>Wisconsin v. Yoder</i>	3/5/24

Class No.	Date	Covered in Class	Assignment	Assignment Due
9	3/5/24	Free Exercise Clause Part I	<b>Reminder: Commerce Clause paper due 3/19</b> Read Text pgs. 343-390 and Excerpt of <i>Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v. EEOC</i> Brief (1) <i>Employment Division v. Smith</i> , and (2) <i>People v. DeJonge</i>	3/19/24
<b>Spring Break</b>				
10	3/19/24	Free Exercise Clause Part II	Read text pgs. 391-415 Brief (1) <i>Roberts v. Jaycees</i> , and (2) <i>Boy Scouts of America v. Dale</i>	3/26/24
11	3/26/24	Freedom of Association	Read text pgs. 417-443 and Excerpt of <i>Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health</i> Brief (1) <i>Roe v. Wade</i> and (2) <i>Dobbs</i>	4/2/24
12	4/2/24	Abortion and Reproductive Rights	Read Text pgs. 445-483 and Excerpt of <i>US v. Obergefell v. Hodges</i> Brief (1) <i>Bowers v. Hardwick</i> and (2) <i>Lawrence v. Texas</i>	4/9/24
13	4/9/24	Homosexual Rights and Same-Sex Marriage	Read Text pgs. 485-503 Brief (1) <i>Pierce v. Society of Sisters</i> and (2) <i>Troxel v. Granville</i>	4/16/24
14	4/16/24	Parental Rights and Homeschooling	Read Text pgs. 505-542 Brief (1) <i>Wyman v. James</i> , (2) <i>Calabretta v. Floyd</i> , and (3) <i>DC v. Heller</i>	4/23/24
15	4/23/24	Parental Rights and 4 <sup>th</sup> Amendment 2 <sup>nd</sup> Amendment Part I	Read Text pgs. 543-585 and Excerpt of <i>New York State Rifle &amp; Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen</i> Brief (1) <i>New York State Rifle &amp; Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen</i> (2) <i>Kelo v. City of New London</i> , and (3) <i>Roper v. Simmons</i>	4/30/24
16	4/30/24	2 <sup>nd</sup> Amendment Part II Property Rights International Law	<b>Final Exam Paper Assignment handed out</b>	5/7/24
<b>End of Semester</b>				

Final paper must be emailed to the Instructor by the due date.

## Class Policies

- Grades will be based on the following criteria:
  - 20% Class Participation
  - 20% Weekly Briefs
  - Commerce Clause Paper 20%
  - Final Exam Paper 40%
- Students auditing the class may participate as much or as little as they wish in class and are encouraged to do all the readings. I will not grade any assignments for audit students. Any student who falls behind on assignments is encouraged to switch to audit status.
- All assignments including the two papers are open book and open note. You may use your textbook, class notes, briefs, handouts, even pictures of my slides, on any and all assignments. In fact, you will *need* all of these things. However, **NO INTERNET ALLOWED. Do not go on the internet for ANY reason for this class. If you plagiarize your briefs or exams from the internet, I will know. Every student who ever flunked my class did so because of plagiarism.**
- Class will begin promptly at Noon. Please be in your seat ready to begin by 11:59 AM. If you are unavoidably late, please enter class as unobtrusively as possible.
- All assignments are to be turned in during class by the due date in class unless otherwise specified. I really appreciate students using staples to keep their multi-page assignments together. If the student is not in class that day, please email the instructor a scanned copy of the assignment by Noon the day the assignment is due. Graded briefs will be returned the following week. Papers will be returned in 2-3 weeks.
- Unless a parent emails the instructor in advance to make alternative arrangements, late assignments will be assessed a 10% penalty per day. Assignments more than 3 days late will be given a 0%.
- Grades will be emailed out two weeks following the conclusion of the semester. Students or parents may email the instructor at any time for a current running grade.
- In the event of inclement weather, classes will be held at the same class time via Zoom or Skype.
- Cell phones need to be placed in the cell phone bucket at the beginning of class with the ringer off. If I see a cell phone during class, I will confiscate it and only return it to a parent.