

# Constitutional Law

## LGLA 1349.200 COURSE SYLLABUS

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CLASSROOM: Online / Blackboard

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an overview of the United States Constitution and its articles, amendments, and judicial interpretations. Topics include separation of powers, checks and balances, governmental structures and processes, and individual rights in relation to government.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course explores the fundamental principles of constitutional law as the foundation for our legal system. Students successfully completing this course will understand the historical development of the U.S. Constitution; be familiar with constitutional issues which may arise in the litigation process in civil cases; be familiar with the application of constitutional principles to criminal cases; know how to research constitutional issues; and understand legal terminology relating to United States Constitution.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: *Constitutional Law – Principles and Practice* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.); (Thomson-Delmar); Author: Hames, Joanne. (If a new edition of this textbook is released and adopted for this course, additional information will be provided in the “Start Here” module on Blackboard. Additionally, information as to where to purchase or access the book will be given in the “Start Here” module.)

COMPUTERS: Laptop computers, iPads, etc., may be used during class for class-related purposes and provided device speakers are muted. Wireless internet access is provided at SPC for education-related purposes only. Paralegal Studies students also have access to computers in the Paralegal Lab in room RC316J. Lab computers are for course-related work only.

**Student-Owned Computer Equipment:** Students may choose to use their own computer equipment to complete the assigned coursework. SPC provides Microsoft Office to students for installation and use on their personal computers. It is the sole responsibility of the student to ensure his / her computer system meets the minimum requirements for all required or suggested software. It is also the sole responsibility of the student to insure his / her computer system is in working order, free of malware, and sufficient to complete assigned coursework. The instructor is not responsible for the student’s computer maintenance and cannot troubleshoot or repair issues on student-

owned computers. If the student needs computer assistance, he/she can contact the SPC student helpdesk.

**GRADING:** One exam will be given during the semester and will count 25% of the final grade. No make-up examinations will be given. Weekly class assignments will count 75% of the final grade. Late class assignments will not be accepted. Grade equivalents: 90 to 100% = A; 80 to 89% = B; 70 to 79% = C; 60 to 69% = D; Below 60% = F.

**NOTICE TO STUDENTS:** In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

For Intellectual Exchange, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please refer to [Syllabus Statements \(southplainscollege.edu\)](http://southplainscollege.edu).

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The following is the tentative schedule for this course. Changes will be made as needed as we progress throughout the semester. Tests and assignments will be scheduled as we progress through the material. Make sure you frequently check Blackboard, announcements, and emails for the due dates of tests and assignments.

Week	Topic to be discussed:
1	Introduction to the course; Syllabus
2	What is a case brief?
3	Overview of the federal government
4	Judicial power
5	Legislative power
6	Executive power
7	State power
8	Civil rights
9	Equal protection
10	Due process
11	Property rights
12	Freedom of expression
13	Freedom of religion
14	Privacy rights
15	Criminal justice
16	Criminal justice, continued

