

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

GOVT 348

CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES – THE 2ND AMENDMENT: THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the student to the historical and constitutional foundation for the 2nd Amendment. Biblical principles such as inalienable rights, justice, and the right to self-defense are discussed. Finally, students will be educated in the full range of rights associated with the 2nd Amendment, and how those rights have been undermined in today's political arena.

RATIONALE

The purpose of this course is to obtain familiarity with the 2nd Amendment to the United States Constitution, its origins, and its purpose. The course will teach the student to analyze and discuss the concerns that led the Founding Fathers to recognize the God-given right to possess firearms and to self-defense. Ultimately, the course will guide the student to arrive at an increased understanding of the state of the 2nd Amendment in the Twenty-First Century, which will include a review of relevant course cases, threats to the exercise of this right, and civic engagement in 2nd Amendment issues.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Current ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

IV. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office
- E. HMX-F90-Camcorder-Flash or similar device.

V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain the constitutional history behind the 2nd Amendment.
- B. Apply biblical principles of inalienable rights, self-defense, government and justice to 2nd Amendment issues.
- C. Differentiate the threats to 2nd Amendment rights.
- D. Identify strategies for civic engagement with respect to 2nd Amendment issues.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (6)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a written or video thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Both options are available for all Discussion Board Forums.

Written threads must be 250–300 words, and video threads must be 120–150 seconds of student-spoken audio and demonstrate course-related knowledge.

Threads must include 2 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible. In addition to the thread, students are required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads in either written or video form. Each written reply must be 150 words and video replies must be 60–90 seconds of student-spoken audio. Replies must include 1 reference in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

- D. Essays (2)

In Module/Week 1, the student will write a 3-page (including references, but not the title page) research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on the Second Amendment through a Christian worldview. The paper must include at least 3 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

In Module/Week 7, the student will write a 3-page (including references, but not the title page) research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on Current Perspectives on the Second Amendment. The paper must include at least 3 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

E. Research Project

The student will create a presentation or write a paper on a topic related to the Second Amendment that is to be approved by the instructor. For this project, the student will submit a topic, a thesis, an outline, and the final submission.

If the student chooses to submit a presentation, he or she will create either a narrated PowerPoint or a video. The narrated presentation must have 5–6 minutes of student-spoken audio and incorporate at least 4 scholarly references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible. If the student chooses to submit a paper, it must be 5–6 pages written in current Turabian format and must include at least 4 scholarly references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

a. Topic Selection

The student will choose a topic related to the Second Amendment and submit it along with a 100-word rationale for choosing the selected topic to the instructor for approval. A list of suggested topics can be found in the course.

b. Thesis and Outline

The student will compose a thesis that states the subject matter of the project and explains the position that is taken on the subject. The student will also complete a well-developed outline in current Turabian format, including all paper headings and subheadings. It must be clear and concise to provide an established framework for the project.

c. Final Submission

The student will submit a final version of his or her research project based on the topic approved by the instructor.

F. Quizzes (6)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the modules/weeks for which it is assigned. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 10 multiple-choice, 10 true/false, and 2 essay questions, and have a 1-hour time limit.

VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (6 at 60 pts ea)	360
Essays (2 at 50 pts ea)	100
Research Project	
Topic Selection	15
Thesis and Outline	40
Final Submission	125
Quizzes (6 at 60 pts ea)	360
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

GOVT 348

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Barton: Introduction, chs. 1–5 1 presentation 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Essay 1	10 0 50
2	Halbrook: chs. 1–2 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Research Project Topic Selection Quiz 1	60 15 60
3	Halbrook: chs. 3–4 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Quiz 2	60 60
4	Halbrook: chs. 5–7 2 presentations	DB Forum 3 Research Project Thesis and Outline Quiz 3	60 40 60
5	Halbrook: chs. 8–11 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 4 Quiz 4	60 60
6	Halbrook: chs. 12–13 1 presentation	DB Forum 5 Quiz 5	60 60
7	Halbrook: chs. 14–15 1 presentation	DB Forum 6 Essay 2	60 50
8	Halbrook: ch. 16 1 presentations	Research Project Final Submission Quiz 6	125 60
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.