

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 422

AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An in-depth historical analysis of American constitutional law, emphasizing landmark Supreme Court decisions, especially in the field of civil liberties.

RATIONALE

An understanding of Constitutional law through the lens of a Christian worldview is essential for anyone interested in pursuing a career in law or criminal justice.

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. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Compare the power and restraint that the Constitution has delegated to each branch of the government.
- B. Distinguish the basic philosophies of Supreme Court Justices and how this affects their decision-making process.
- C. Evaluate the different approaches to interpreting the Constitution as utilized by the Supreme Court.
- D. Construct the Constitutional basis for government protection of civil rights and civil liberties.
- E. Distinguish Supreme Court cases as the cases relate to Constitutional Law.

V. 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 (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 350–450 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates’ threads. Each reply must be 200–250 words. Each thread and reply must have a Christian worldview integrated throughout as well as at least 1 citation in current Bluebook format.

D. Case Studies (2)

The student will complete 2 Case Studies in this course. Each case study must be at least 3 pages and contain at least 2 citations in addition to the course textbook in current Bluebook format.

E. Final Paper

The student will write a 5–7-page paper in current Bluebook format that focuses on a Supreme Court decision provided by the instructor. The paper must include at least 5 citations in addition to the course textbook.

F. Exams (2)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned modules/weeks. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 40 multiple-choice and true/false questions as well as 2 essay questions, and have a 2-hour time limit.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist		10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 100 pts ea)		300
Case Studies (2 at 125 pts ea)		250
Final Paper		200
Exam 1	(Modules 1–3)	125
Exam 2	(Modules 4–6)	125
	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 422

Textbook: Stephens & Scheb, *American Constitutional Law: Custom* (2015).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Stephens & Scheb: ch. 1 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 100
2	Stephens & Scheb: ch. 2 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	100
3	Stephens & Scheb: ch. 3 1 presentation	Exam 1	125
4	Stephens & Scheb: ch. 4 1 presentation	Case Study 1	125
5	Stephens & Scheb: ch. 5 1 presentation	DB Forum 3	100
6	Stephens & Scheb: ch. 6 1 presentation	Exam 2	125
7	Stephens & Scheb: ch. 7 1 presentation	Case Study 2	125
8	Stephens & Scheb: ch. 8 1 presentation	Final Paper	200
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**.