

**FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, LAHORE**

**(A Chartered University)**

**Department of Political Science**

**Spring 2020**

Course Title: Constitutional Law- United states

Course Code: PLSC 331

Course Length (in weeks): 15

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor’s Name: Dr. Muhammad Younis

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**Course Description**

This under graduate level course of Political Science is meant to focus on the framing of American constitution, development of American federalism, working of different organs of the central government, role of supreme court in US government, civil rights and liberties, various amendments introduced in the constitution, commerce clauses of the constitution and the controversy over the use of different interpretive approaches to the constitution.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course, the students will be able to

* Understand how the constitution was framed; what were some of the controversies that the framers faced; and how those controversies were resolved.
* Explain the relationship between different organs of the federal government and also their composition and functions.
* Comprehend how the constitution regulates the relationship between the nation and the states
* Critically evaluate the role of U.S Supreme Court in strengthening democratic traditions.
* Articulate and apply the rights and liberties protected under the U.S. constitution
* Understand the economic clauses of the constitution.

**Course Content**

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| Topic | Content | Week |
| 1. | Introduction to the U.S. Constitution   * The road to the U.S Constitution * The underlying principles of the constitution. * Salient features of the constitution | Week 1 and 2 |
| 2 | * The origin of the separation of power and checks and balances system | Week 3 |
| 3 | * The Organs of the central Government * Legislature: Senate and House of Representatives. * Composition and powers * Executive: The President * Elections, role and powers | Week 4 and 5 |
| 4. | * The Judiciary: * The establishment of the federal judiciary. * Understanding the Supreme Court * Judicial review; concept and scope * Constraints on judicial power | Week 6 and 7 |
| 5. | Mid Term Examination | Week 8 |
| 6. | Federalism:   * Nation- state relations: The Doctrinal Cycle | Week 9 |
| 7. | The commerce clauses of the constitution:     * Constitutional foundations of the commerce powers. * Interstate commerce | Week 10 |
| 8. | The Commerce powers of the states   * The taking clause: protecting private property from government seizure. | Week 11 |
| 9. | Civil Rights and Civil Liberties | Week 12 and 13 |
| 10. | * Economic Liberties and Individual Rights * Important Constitutional Amendments * Revision of the course | Week 14 and 15 |

**\*COURSE CONTENT CAN BE MODIFIED.**

**Assessment Strategy**

Attendance and Class participation: 10%

Quizzes: 10%

Assignment: 10%

Final Project: 20 %

Mid Term Examination: 20%

Final Examination: 30%

**Note: Plagiarism, cheating or any other violation will be dealt with according to FCCU policies**

**Recommended Readings**

* Constitutional Law for a changing America: Institutional Powers and Constraints, third edition by Lee Epstein and Thomas G. Walker.
* Keeping the Republic: power and citizenship in American politics, 4th edition, by Christine Barbour and Gerald C. Wright.
* Outline of the U.S. legal system, Bureau of international information programs United States department of State , 2004
* Comparative Governance by W. Phillips Shively