

Technical College of the Lowcountry
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CRJ 120
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Course Description

This course covers the analysis of the historical development of the U.S. Constitution and the relationship of rights contained therein to the state and the individual. The application of the Bill of Rights to federal and state systems is examined.

Prerequisite: CRJ 101, RDG, ENG 100.

3 Cr (3 lect/pres, 0 lab, 0 other)

Course Focus

The student will understand the relationship between the U. S. Constitution and the criminal justice system.

Text and References

Constitutional Law and The Criminal Justice System, 5th Edition, Harr, J. S., and Hess, K. M.,

Cengage Learning ISBN 10: 0-495-09543-5

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/search/>

<http://www.supremecourt.gov/>

Course Goals

The following list of course goals will be addressed in the course. These goals are directly related to the performance objectives. (*designates a CRUCIAL goal)

1. Read the United States Constitution
2. Read the Declaration of Independent
3. Develop a timeline of events leading to the drafting of the Constitution
4. Learn the components of the legal system
5. Know how the laws are categorized
6. Know how to brief a case
7. Distinguish between substantive and procedure law
8. Research a law
9. Understand case law
10. Discuss the constitutional impact on equal protection
11. Identify discrimination within the criminal justice system
12. Know what freedoms are protected under the First Amendment
13. Determine conduct not protected under the First Amendment

14. Explain rights of police officers under the First Amendment
15. Explain rights of prisoners under the First Amendment
16. Cite a US Supreme Court case which impacted the First Amendment
17. Compare and contrast the individual versus state rights to gun control
18. Discuss federal gun control laws
19. Develop gun control strategies
20. Apply 4th Amendment to law enforcement
21. Understand arrests and search warrants
22. Explain warrantless searches
23. Discuss the impact of *Terry v. Ohio*
24. Apply the police Continuum of Contacts
25. Determine the consequences for violating the 4th Amendment
26. Identify the exceptions to the Exclusionary Rule
27. Define arrest
28. Determine whether an arrest is constitutional
29. Determine what force may be used to make an arrest
30. Cite and explain the use of force continuum
31. Determine who may arrest
32. Discuss the rights guaranteed by the 5th Amendment
33. Explain *Miranda v. Arizona*
34. Cite a version of the Miranda Warning
35. Determine current issues with the *Miranda* decision
36. Discuss the impact of the USA PATRIOT Act
37. Understand the 6th Amendment impact on a criminal trial
38. Discuss the characteristics of an impartial jury
39. Establish the connection between the *Miranda* decision and the 6th Amendment
40. Show when a defendant is required an attorney.
41. Explain the rights provided by the 8th Amendment
42. Cite and explain the Sentencing Continuum
43. Debate the right to privacy as established under the 9th Amendment
44. Understand the post Bill of Rights Amendments
45. Debate state rights versus federalism

Student Contributions

Each student will spend at least 6 hours per week preparing for class. Attendance is critical in this class. There will be 5 quizzes, a midterm examination, and a final examination. All quizzes and the midterm will be on Blackboard outside of the class time. It is the responsibility of the student to take the quizzes and midterm within the specified due dates. The syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be discussed and students will be accountable for such changes.

Course Evaluation

Your performance objective and exams will be translated to points and the points to grades. There are 100 possible points and grades will be earned as follows:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69

Tests and Quizzes

There are 2 quizzes, a midterm examination, and a final examination. Each quiz consists of 25 multiple-choice, true-false, fill-in the blank, and essay questions. Each quiz is valued at 10% for a total of 20% of the final grade.

The midterm examination is a comprehensive examination which covers the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and chapters 1-5. The midterm will consist of multiple-choice, true-false, fill-in the blank, and essay questions. It is valued at 20% of the final grade.

The final examination is a comprehensive examination which covers the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and chapters 6-13 and. The final examination consist true-false, fill-in the blank, and essay questions. It is valued at 20% of the final grade.

Class Participation

Each student is required to participate in the classroom discussion. Discussions will develop from the weekly reading and current legal trends. Classroom discussion is valued at 10% of the final grade.

Research

Each student will research and brief five United States Supreme Court Cases. This research is valued at 30% of the final grade.

ADA STATEMENT

The Technical College of the Lowcountry provides access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation, contact the counselor for students with disabilities at (843) 525-8228 during the first ten business days of the academic term.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

There is no tolerance at TCL for academic dishonesty and misconduct. The College expects all students to conduct themselves with dignity and to maintain high standards of responsible citizenship.

It is the student's responsibility to address any questions regarding what might constitute academic misconduct to the course instructor for further clarification.

The College adheres to the Student Code for the South Carolina Technical College System. Copies of the Student Code and Grievance Procedure are provided in the *TCL Student Handbook*, the Division Office, and the Learning Resources Center.

ATTENDANCE

The College's statement of policy indicates that students must attend ninety percent of total class hours or they will be in violation of the attendance policy.

- Students not physically attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
- Students taking an online/internet class must sign in **and** communicate with the instructor within the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester to indicate attendance in the class. Students not attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
- Reinstatement requires the signature of the division dean.

☒ In the event it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from the course OR if a student stops attending class, it is the student's responsibility to initiate and complete the necessary paperwork. Withdrawing from class may have consequences associated with financial aid and time to completion.

☒☒ When a student exceeds the allowed absences, the student is in violation of the attendance policy. The instructor MUST withdraw the student with a grade of "W", "WP", or "WF" depending on the date the student exceeded the allowed absences and the student's progress up to the last date of attendance

or

o under extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the class, allow the student to continue in the class and make-up the work. This exception must be documented at the time the allowed absences are exceeded.

☒☒ Absences are counted from the first day of class. There are no "excused" absences. All absences are counted, regardless of the reason for the absence.

- A student must take the final exam or be excused from the final exam in order to earn a non-withdrawal grade.

☒☒ A copy of TCL's STATEMENT **OF POLICY NUMBER: 3-1-307 CLASS ATTENDANCE (WITHDRAWAL)** is on file in the Division Office and in the Learning Resources Center.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER

In case weather conditions are so severe that operation of the College may clearly pose a hardship on students and staff traveling to the College, notification of closing will be made through the following radio and television stations: WYKZ 98.7, WGCO 98.3, WGZO 103.1, WFXH 106.1, WWVW 106.9, WLOW 107.9, WGZR 104.9, WFXH 1130 AM, WLVH 101.1, WSOK 1230 AM, WAEV 97.3, WTOC TV, WTGS TV, WJWJ TV, and WSAV TV. Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp

Emergency Text Message Alert

Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. Participants receive immediate notification of emergency events and weather cancelations via text messaging on their cell phones. Participants can also opt in to receive non-emergency news and announcements. Go to www.tcl.edu. On the homepage, click on “emergency TextAlert at TCL” and fill out the form or go to www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp

Developed/Revised: January 5, 2012