November 21, 2017

Constitutional Law Syllabus

Julien C. Hounkpe
THE ANGLOPHONE DEPARTMENT
Attracting the Young from Nations, Returning Leaders to Nations

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 2nd YEAR

COURSE :

PSCI 220 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

INSTRUCTOR :

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Academic Year 2016-2017
Required Text:
Handouts

Recommended Text:
The US Constitution

Course Description:
Introduction to Constitutional law and the federal courts. Examines the emergence of judicial review, the judiciary’s role in the system of check and balances, and the powers and limitations on each branch of government.

Learning Outcome Assessment:
- Attendance and Active Participation 10%
- Two Quizzes 40%
- One In-Class Midterm Exam 25%
- One In-Class Final Exam 25%

Grading Scale:
The following is the Grading Scale for this course

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Couse Outline :

WEEK 1:

- Introduction to Constitutional Law
- The Constitution
  - Definition
  - Nature
  - Sources
  - Classification
  - Protection

WEEK 2:

- The Rule of Law
  - Historical Evolution
  - Contextual Meaning
  - Supremacy of the Law
  - Equality before the Law
  - Enforcement of Rights
- The Separation of Powers
  - Doctrine of separation of powers
  - The Legislative
  - The Executive
  - The Judiciary

QUIZ#1

WEEK 3:

- Systems of Government
  - Federal System
  - Unitary System
  - Presidential System
  - Parliamentary System
- Constitutional Law in the United States
  - Checks and Balances
  - The Federal Courts
  - Judicial Review

QUIZ#2

WEEK 4:

- The US Constitutional Law (cont’d)
- Review for Midterm Exam

MIDTERM EXAM

FINAL EXAM (To Be Announced)

➢ THIS INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVISE THIS SYLLABUS
Textbooks
Eileen Servidio-Delabre, The Legal System of a Common Law Country, Cours et Travaux Dirigés Dalloz

Documents
The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Constitutional Law
Edited by Michel Rosenfeld and András Sajó.
Features contributions from leading political scientists, legal scholars, and judges to present a rounded perspective on the discipline and emerging trends.
Definitions of constitutional law in both the wide and narrow sense are discussed at length by Sir Ivor Jenning in the Law and the Constitution (1959), KC Wheare in Modern Constitutions (1966) and Colin Munro in Studies in Constitutional Law, (1999).

Electronic Resources
You can experience online course originally designed on OpenLearn, the home of free learning from The UK Open University - http://www.open.ac.uk/
From the Nigeria National Open University - http://www.noun.org

Useful Web Sites
A vast amount of constitutionnal law material is available on the web. A very useful portal is Online Resource Centre which is organised by the Oxford University Press. It is to be found at URL: www.global.oup.com
See also a fantastic constitutional law website which includes the full text of constitutions for you to explore: The Comparative Constitutions Project - http://www.constituteproject.org