Syllabus for Constitutional Law

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Draft Syllabus for Constitutional Law

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Requirements:

- Midterm (Week 7) (25% grade)
- Final Exam (25% grade)
- Quiz on the Constitution (Week 2) (5% grade)
- Four reaction papers to a week's readings (2-3 pages) (10% grade)
- For each class, a student will give a 10-minute presentation on one of the court cases assigned as a reading for that week. (5% grade)

Readings:


**Week 1: The Supreme Court and the Constitution**

Kommers et al, vol. 1, chs. 1-3

Abraham & Perry, ch. 1

The Constitution, with special attention to the Bill of Rights and the Civil War Amendments (13, 14, 15)

*Marbury v. Madison* (1803)

**Week 2: The Separation of Powers**

Kommers et al, vol. 1, ch. 4


*INS v. Chadha* (1983)
Morrison v. Olson (1988)

Week 3: Congressional Powers; Federalism and State Regulation
Kommers et al, vol. 1, ch. 6-7
McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)
United States v. E. C. Knight Co. et al (1895)
Schechter Poultry Corporation v. United States (1935)
NLRB v. Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation (1937)
Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States (1964)
National League of Cities v. Usery (1976)

Week 4: Foreign Affairs and Constitutional Crises
Kommers et al, vol. 1, ch. 5
Ex Parte Milligan (1866)
United States v. Curtiss-Wright Export Corp. (1936)
Korematsu v. United States (1944)
Youngstown Sheet and Tube v. Sawyer (1952)

Week 5: Voting and Political Representation
Kommers et al, vol. 1, ch. 8
Reynolds v. Sims (1964)
Buckley v. Valeo (1976)
Shaw v. Reno (1993)
Wisconsin Right to Life v. FEC (2007)
Citizens United v. FEC (2010)
Speechnow.org v. FEC (2010)

Week 6: The Bill of Rights, Due Process, and Incorporation
Kommers et al, vol. 2, ch. 4
Abraham & Perry, ch. 3
Hugo L. Black, A Constitutional Faith (selections)
Barron v. Baltimore (1833)
The Slaughterhouse Cases (1873)
Palko v. Connecticut (1937)
Adamson v. California (1947)
Rochin v. California (1952)

Week 7: Liberty and Property
Kommers et al, vol. 2, ch. 5
Charles River Bridge Company v. Warren Bridge (1837)
Munn v. Illinois (1876)
Lochner v. New York (1905)
West Coast Hotel v. Parrish (1937)
Week 8: The Double Standard

Abraham & Perry, ch. 2

*U.S. v. Carolene Products* (1938)

*Hague v. CIO* (1939)

*U.S. v. Classic* (1941)

*West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette* (1943)

*Smith v. Allwright* (1944)

*Terminello v. Chicago* (1949)

*Baker v. Carr* (1962)

Week 9: Privacy and Personhood

Kommers et al, vol. 2, ch. 6

*Meyer v. Nebraska* (1923)

*Skinner v. Connecticut* (1942)

*Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965)

*Roe v. Wade* (1973)


Week 10: Freedom of Speech

Kommers et al, vol. 2, ch. 7

Abraham & Perry, ch. 5

*The Sedition Act of 1798*
Schenck v. U.S. (1919)
Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire (1942)
Dennis v. U.S. (1951)
U.S. v. O’Brien (1968)
Cohen v. California (1971)
Miller v. California (1973)

Week 11: Freedom of Religion
Kommers et al, vol. 2, ch. 8
Abraham & Perry, ch. 6
Everson v. Board of Education (1947)
Engel v. Vitale (1962)
Sherbert v. Verner (1963)
Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971)
Employment Division v. Smith (1990)
Lee v. Weisman (1992)
Boerne v. Flores (1997)

Week 12: The Equal Protection Clause and Racial Discrimination
Kommers et al, vol. 2, ch. 9
Abraham & Perry, ch. 7
Dred Scott v. Sandford (1856)
The Civil Rights Cases (1883)
Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)
Shelley v. Kraemer (1948)
Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)
Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978)

Week 13: The Equal Protection Clause and Gender Discrimination

Kommers et al, vol. 2, ch. 10
Abraham & Perry, ch. 8
Frontiero v. Richardson (1973)
Craig v. Boren (1976)
Nguyen v. INS (2001)