

Course Syllabus

I. General Information

Course name	American Constitutional Law
Programme	law
Level of studies (BA, BSc, MA, MSc, long-cycle MA)	long-cycle MA
Form of studies (full-time, part-time)	full-time
Discipline	law
Language of instruction	English

Course coordinator/person responsible	dr Delaine Swenson (prof. KUL), dr Agnieszka Parol
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Type of class (<i>use only the types mentioned below</i>)	Number of teaching hours	Semester	ECTS Points
lecture			3
tutorial			
classes			
laboratory classes	30	VII	
workshops			
seminar			
introductory seminar			
foreign language classes			
practical placement			
field work			
diploma laboratory			
translation classes			
study visit			

Course pre-requisites	Students should have knowledge, skills and social competences in the field of sources of law and use English at a minimum level of B1.
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II. Course Objectives

This class introduces students to legal issues under the United States Constitution. The class first explores the type of government the US Constitution creates focusing on issues like separation of powers and federalism. The second half of the course focuses on individual rights under the American system focusing on the Bill of Rights and rights like freedom of speech, association, religion, and privacy.

III. Course learning outcomes with reference to programme learning outcomes

Symbol	Description of the objective effect	Directional effect reference
KNOWLEDGE		
W_01	He knows and understands the legal terminology in English in the field of American constitutional law	K_W03
W_02	Has a basic knowledge of the sources of law in the field of American constitutional law and the hierarchy of legal norms in English. He knows the general principles of creating and applying American constitutional law.	K_W04
W_03	Has a basic knowledge of various types of legal institutions in the field of American constitutional law in English and in-depth knowledge of selected institutions of American constitutional law. Knows and understands the ways of functioning of selected institutions of American constitutional law.	K_W07
W_04	Has a basic knowledge of relations between structures organizational as well as between social institutions, economic in terms of American constitutional law. Has in-depth knowledge of selected structures and institutions of American constitutional law in English.	K_W08
W_05	Has structured knowledge of the types of social ties and their axiological context and impact on American constitutional law	K_W09
W_06	He knows the methods and tools, including data acquisition techniques appropriate for American constitutional law.	K_W10
W_07	Has knowledge of the legal norms that organize the structures and institutions of American constitutional law in English and the regulations governing them. In this regard, he identifies the directions of development of American constitutional law.	K_W11
W_08	Has structured knowledge of procedural standards and understands the process of their application in American constitutional law in English.	K_W12
W_09	Knows and understands the normative and practical aspects of	K_W13

	entrepreneurship.	
SKILLS		
U_01	He can observe and interpret social, economic and legal phenomena, and analyze their connection with American constitutional law.	K_U01
U_02	Can use the basic theoretical knowledge of American constitutional law in order to analyzing and interpreting specific processes and phenomena legal, economic and social.	K_U02
U_03	Has the ability to use legal concepts in English in order to understand and analyze phenomena in the field of American constitutional law.	K_U03
U_04	Can independently acquire knowledge and develop professional skills, using various sources (in the native language and in a foreign language), including modern technologies (ICT).	K_U04
U_05	Has research skills including formulating and analysis of legal problems, selection of methods and tools research development and presentation of results allowing to solve problems of American constitutional law (interpretation, interpretation of regulations, judgments, literature).	K_U05
U_06	Can properly analyze the causes and course of the selected social, economic and political processes and phenomena, and to forecast their legal effects.	K_U06
U_07	Is able to accurately and coherently express himself in speech and in writing on topics related to selected issues in the field of American constitutional law , using various theoretical approaches, using both the achievements of legal sciences and other disciplines.	K_U07
U_08	Can use a specialized legal language and communicate in a precise and consistent manner using various communication techniques with specialists in the field law and recipients from outside the group of specialists in English.	K_U08
U_09	Has the ability to be substantive independently arguing using the views of other authors, including formulating theses, accurately formulating conclusions and creating synthetic summaries and assessments of selected problems.	K_U09
U_10	Has the ability to use the acquired knowledge of American constitutional law in various scopes and forms to resolve dilemmas arising at work professional, in particular, critical	K_U10

	analysis of the effectiveness and the suitability of the knowledge applied.	
U_11	Can use the principles and ethical standards in undertaken activity, sees and analyzes dilemmas ethical, anticipates the effects of specific actions in the area American constitutional law.	K_U12
SOCIAL COMPETENCE		
K_01	Is aware of the level of their knowledge and skills, understands the need for lifelong learning.	K_K01
K_02	Can work in a team performing various roles (speaker, debater, advisor, critical analyst, commentator effects), knows how to accept and assign tasks, has elementary organizational skills allowing for achievement of the assumed goals.	K_K02
K_03	Can properly assess the priorities for implementation a specific or imposed task, takes care of the timely and effective implementation of tasks.	K_K03
K_04	He is convinced of the importance of behaving in a professional manner, reflecting on ethical issues and adhering to the rules of professional ethics .	K_K04
K_05	Is able to participate in the preparation of social projects, civil society taking into account the legal aspects. Can predict the multidirectional social effects of your activities.	K_K05
K_06	He can supplement and improve acquired knowledge and skills.	K_K06
K_07	Prepares responsibly for his work.	K_K07
K_08	He can think and act in an entrepreneurial way.	K_K08

IV. Course Content

Topic 1: The Historical and Political Basis for the US Constitution
Topic 2: Federalism and the Concepts of Separation of Powers; The Judicial Branch -Courts under the US Constitution
Topic 3: The Legislative Branch - Congress
Topic 4: The Executive – The President and Administration
Topic 5: First Amendment – Freedom of Religion – The Establishment Clause
Topic 6: First Amendment – Freedom of Religion – Free Exercise
Topic 7: First Amendment – Freedom of Speech

Topic 8: Freedom of Speech Continued/Freedom of Press and Association
Topic 9: The Right to Privacy
Topic 10: Procedural and Substantive Due Process

Topic 11: The Right to Equal Protection
Topic 12: Right to Keep and Bear Arms; Right to Travel; Right to Refuse Medical Treatment
Topic 13: Right to Vote; The Takings Clause
Topic 14: Contemporary Issues in American Constitutional Law

V. Didactic methods used and forms of assessment of learning outcomes

Symbol	Didactic methods <i>(choose from the list)</i>	Forms of assessment <i>(choose from the list)</i>	Documentation type <i>(choose from the list)</i>
KNOWLEDGE			
W_01- W_09	conventional lecture, conversational lecture, problem lecture, problem based learning, group working (hybrid learning, distance and/or stationary)	paper, test	protocol
SKILLS			
U_01- U_11	conventional lecture, conversational lecture, problem lecture, problem based learning, group working (hybrid learning, distance and/or stationary)	paper, test	protocol
SOCIAL COMPETENCIES			
K_01- K_08	conventional lecture, conversational lecture, problem lecture, problem based learning, group working (hybrid learning, distance and/or stationary)	paper, test	protocol

VI. Grading criteria, weighting factors.....

Grading: The final grade in this class will be based on class attendance and participation as well as final written exam. Students **MUST attend a minimum of 60%** of all classes in order to be eligible to take the final exam and get a grade in this class.

Students should read the cases before the class they will be discussed in order to get the most out of the class discussions.

VII. Student workload

Form of activity	Number of hours
Number of contact hours (with the teacher)	30
Number of hours of individual student work	60

VIII. Literature

<p>Basic literature</p> <p>Required reading list: Obligatory reading materials are distributed during the course of the class. Reading includes cases from the United States Supreme Court.</p> <p>Cases and Materials on Constitutional Law, Grump, Gressman and Reiss, Matthew Bender, New York 1989</p> <p>Constitutional Law, Stone, Seidman, Sunstein, Tushnet, Little Brown and Company, New York, 1991</p> <p><u>Topic 1: Reading:</u> Declaration of Independence; Articles of Confederation; US Constitution</p> <p><u>Topic 2: Reading:</u> <i>Marbury v. Madison</i>; <i>Martin v. Hunter's Lessee</i>; <i>Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife</i>; <i>Flast v. Cohen</i>.</p> <p><u>Topic 3: Reading:</u> <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i>; <i>Hammer v. Dagenhart</i>; <i>Wickard v. Filburn</i>; <i>Atlanta Motel v United States</i>; <i>United States v. Lopez</i>; <i>Bailey v. Drexel Furniture Company</i>; <i>South Dakota v. Dole</i>; <i>Reid v. Covert</i>.</p> <p><u>Topic 4: Reading:</u> <i>Morrison v. Olsen</i>; <i>Youngstown Co. v. Sawyer</i>; <i>United States v. Nixon</i>; <i>Medellin v. Texas</i></p> <p><u>Topic 5: Reading:</u> <i>Everson v. Board of Education of Ewing TP</i>; <i>Lemon v. Kurtzman</i>; <i>Wallace v. Jaffree</i>; <i>Lynch v. Donnelly</i></p> <p><u>Topic 6: Reading:</u> <i>West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette</i>; <i>Cantwell v. Connecticut</i>; <i>Torcaso v. Watkins</i>; <i>Sherbert v. Werner</i>; <i>Bowen v. Roy</i>; <i>Wisconsin v. Yoder</i>; <i>Employment Division v. Smith</i>.</p> <p><u>Topic 7: Reading:</u> <i>Coates v. City of Cincinnati</i>; <i>New York Times Co. v. United States</i>; <i>Edwards v. South Carolina</i>; <i>United States v. O'Brien</i>; <i>Brandenburg v. Ohio</i>.</p> <p><u>Topic 8: Reading:</u> <i>Cohen v. California</i>; <i>Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire</i>; <i>Miller v. California</i>; <i>New York Times Co. v. Sullivan</i>; <i>Texas v. Johnson</i></p> <p><u>Topic 9: Reading:</u> <i>Griswold v. Connecticut</i>; <i>Roe v. Wade</i>; <i>Bowers v. Hardwick</i>, <i>Lawrence v. Texas</i></p> <p><u>Topic 10: Reading:</u> <i>Duncan v. Louisiana</i>; <i>Others as assigned</i></p> <p><u>Topic 11: Reading:</u> <i>Rostker v. Goldberg</i>; <i>Craig v. Boren</i>; <i>Loving v. Virginia</i>; <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i>; <i>Korematsu v. United States</i>; <i>Gratz v. Bollinger</i></p> <p><u>Topic 12: Reading:</u> <i>District of Columbia v. Heller</i>; <i>Others as assigned</i></p> <p><u>Topic 13: Reading:</u> <i>Crawford v. Marion County</i>, <i>Others as assigned</i></p> <p><u>Topic 14: Reading:</u> <i>Materials to be distributed</i></p>
<p>Additional literature</p>