

GOVT 429 – CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SYLLABUS

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COURSE DELIVERY:

Print-Based Correspondence Course

CREDIT HOURS:

Three Semester Hours

COURSE MATERIALS:

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 1064** to order books from Bookstore site.

Required Textbook:

Christopher E. Smith. Criminal Procedure. Wadsworth Pub. 2003.

Lawrence Baum. The Supreme Court. Congressional Quarterly Press. 10th edition. 2009.

Since the publication of your text, the Supreme Court has ruled in a number current cases altering or sharpening the law in fundamental ways. In addition to the cases found in your text, you must read and are responsible for current cases that I include under each unit.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course examines Supreme Court decisions and doctrine in areas such as search and seizure, the exclusionary rule, interrogations, right to counsel, cruel and unusual punishment and other issues in criminal justice and the courts.

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AMPLIFIED COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys how the U. S. Supreme Court has interpreted the U. S. Constitution and shaped constitutional law. Arranged thematically, this course focuses primarily on issues involving the criminal justice process and how the courts have defined these cases. Students shall acquire a working knowledge of the rudiments of constitutional law, learn basic legal research techniques both in traditional and cyber formats, produce a term paper, and stand for four exams.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will:

- Identify and explain fundamental cases and questions adjudicated by the Supreme Court.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the rudiments of constitutional law;
- Demonstrate basic legal research techniques in both traditional and cyber formats, produce a term paper that analyzes a specific issue or range of issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- The student shall stand successfully for four exams—the last of which consists of a unit four exam plus comprehensive essays and cases to identify from the previous units. All guiding questions in the form given below or in some combined form, plus all cases italicized in the table of contents or cited in the texts are potential test items. Exams may consist of objective, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and full essay questions.
- The student shall produce an approved ten-page research paper (pages of actual text, exclusive of bibliography and endnotes) on some issue in criminal law. For example, historical development of the exclusionary rule, OR, a comparison of US and British courts with regard to jury composition. An effective paper is one that is grounded in standard scholarly literature—law review articles, scholarly monographs, actual court rulings, legal briefs, etc. The student shall prepare a prospectus indicating the topic and the research materials to be consulted, followed by a complete draft of the paper—think of this draft as the FINAL paper—to be submitted to me, followed by a revision taking into account my suggestions. (See grade scale below for further clarification.)

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GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Test One	50 points
Test Two	50 points
Test Three	50 points
Test Four/Comprehensive Final	100 points
Paper Prospectus	25 points
Paper Draft	100 points
Final Revision	25 points
Total Points	400 points

A	360-400
B	320-359
C	280-319
D	240-279
F	Below 239

ADA STATEMENT:

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719.587.7221 as soon as possible.