

HIST210: History of the U.S. Constitution

College of Graduate and Continuing Studies, Norwich University

[Print This Page](#)

Course Welcome

Welcome to HIST210: History of the U.S. Constitution

This course is an overview of the influences and events that led to the creation of the Constitution of the United States. Students will also learn of the subsequent historical events that have caused the Constitution to evolve and change along with American society.

Course Description

3 quarter credits

A study of the political, economic, and social contexts of the creation of the Constitution and the significant amendments to it. Emphasis is on the role of the judicial branch in constitutional matters; the effects of social change in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries; and the impact of technology on contemporary constitutional issues.

Course Outcomes

On completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the historical origins and current structure of the U.S. Constitution and how it delineates the separation of powers within the federal government.
- Analyze the origins of the major amendments and their impact on U.S. society.
- Evaluate the role of the judiciary in interpreting the Constitution.
- Contrast federal authority with state authority as it relates to the Constitution.
- Explain the role of the Constitution in contemporary issues related to information and communication technologies.

Required Textbook

Textbook required for this course:

- Beeman, R. *Plain, Honest Men: The Making of America's Constitution*. 2010. Random House, Print ISBN: 9780812976847

See the [Required Readings](#) page for a list of each week's readings.

Weekly Outline

Every week has a prescribed checklist of activities required to successfully complete the lesson. Follow this checklist, in the specified order, to complete each lesson.

Week	Topic	Requirements
Week 01	A Weight Too Great and Irresistible – The First Years of the American Republic	1. Required reading 2. Discussion
Week 02	Measures Good and Wise – Presenting a Plan of Government	1. Required reading 2. Discussion 3. Assignment
Week 03	Work of Labour and Difficulty – Conflict and Compromise in Philadelphia	1. Required reading 2. Discussion 3. Course Evaluation Survey
Week 04	Power To Be Granted – Ratifying the Constitution	1. Required reading 2. Discussion 3. Assignment
Week 05	The Constitution Supreme – The Role of Federal and State Governments	1. Required reading 2. Discussion
Week 06	A Three Horse Team – The Institutions of American Government	1. Required reading 2. Discussion 3. Assignment
Week 07	To Proceed with Caution – Amending the Constitution	1. Required reading 2. Discussion
Week 08	To Deter and Punish – Liberty and Security in the 21st Century	1. Required reading 2. Discussion 3. Assignment

Grades

As a student in this course, you have a number of responsibilities that will affect the level of learning you achieve. These responsibilities include:

1. Working actively to create a challenging and useful learning experience for yourself, your discussion group, and the class as a whole.
2. Encouraging and supporting the learning of each member of the class.
3. Preparing and participating fully in discussions as well as group and/or class activities.
4. Completing all assigned work on time or making prior arrangements in case of an absence during the week or when a late submission is unavoidable.

In this course you have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that will help you become effective, confident and focused in your learning.

You will be provided a weekly commentary/lecture and have [required readings](#) and discussion assignments. There will be a number of written assignments which are explained thoroughly in the week in which they occur. A total of 1000 points are available in the course distributed across the components listed below, with both points and percent of final grade indicated.

Graded Assessment Types	Points	Weights (%)
Weekly Discussions: 8 @ 50 points each	400	40%
Written Assignments		
Case Analysis Paper	100	10%
Research Paper Bibliography and Outline	80	8%
Court Analysis/Articles of the Constitution Paper	100	10%
Research Paper	320	32%
Totals	1000	100%

Letter grades for the course will be based on the following grading scale.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A	93-100%	4.0
A -	90-92.9%	3.7
B +	87-89.9%	3.3
B	83-86.9%	3.0
B -	80-82.9%	2.7
C +	77-79.9%	2.3
C	75-76.9%	2.0
C -	73-74.9%	1.7
D +	70-72.9%	1.3
D	67-69.9%	1.0
D -	63-66.9%	0.7
F	Below 63.0%	0.0

For complete information on the Grading Policy, please refer to the [CGCS Online Catalog](#) (Sub-Section of Catalog on "Grades.")

Students are expected to maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average to remain in good academic standing.

All writing for this seminar must follow the APA writing style. All writing for this seminar must follow APA guidelines for formatting and citation, which can be found at [The Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)

(OWL). Grading rubrics for assignments and discussions are provided from the [Grading Guidelines and Rubrics](#) link.

Discussions

In this course, you will be assigned to a small discussion group. Each week your group will discuss one to three questions. All discussions are graded. The quality of your posts and those of your fellow students will create a lively discussion and ensure that a high level of learning occurs. In order to facilitate critical thinking, your responses should be both objective in nature and fully address both sides of the issue being discussed.

Each week you are expected to:

- Post **one substantive** (approximately 200-300 words) response to **each of the discussion questions**. At least **one** of these postings must be made by Wednesday at the latest. Your initial response is your opportunity to demonstrate that you have read the assigned readings and should reflect knowledge of these readings both in content and citation.
- Post **two responses** to posts of your fellow group members within any of the discussion questions. Responses such as, "Good point," or, "I agree," are not sufficient. Your response posts should be substantive - ask questions, point out additional thoughts, etc. Disagreement and critical feedback are part of an academic classroom, as is respect for the diversity of opinion. These posts must be made before the discussion closes for the week. You are encouraged to post as early in the week as possible for a more active discussion.

For more information about what is expected in regard to discussion postings, please review the *Weekly Discussion Rubric* and *Discussion Guidelines* in the [Grading Guidelines and Rubrics](#) link (found at the top of the course).

Late Work

It is important that writing assignments and discussion posts be completed on time. Extensions of deadlines will be given only for serious extenuating circumstances and when requested and approved in advance by your instructor. In the absence of such extensions, late work will be downgraded according to the discretion of the instructor.

Academic Honesty and the Norwich University Honor Code

A student must submit work that represents the student's own original analysis and writing. Copying another's work is not appropriate. If the student relies on the research or writing of others, the student must cite those sources. Words or ideas that require citations include, but are not limited to all hardcopy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. While students are encouraged to seek editing feedback, extensive revisions of one's work by another person is considered a lack of academic honesty, as it is representing another student's work as one's own.

For more information see:

[Academic Dishonesty](#)

[Academic Integrity](#)

[Norwich University Honor Code](#)

Copyright Notice

The content of this seminar contains material used in compliance with the U.S. Copyright Law, including the TEACH Act and principles of "fair use." Materials may not be downloaded, saved, revised, copied, printed or distributed without permission other than as specified to complete seminar assignments. Use of these materials is limited to class members for the duration of the seminar only.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/ADA

Please consult [Appendix H: University Policy - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) for instructions on obtaining an accommodation.

Disclaimer: Please note the specifics of this Course Syllabus are subject to change. Students are responsible for abiding by any such changes. Your instructor will notify you of any changes.

Copyright © Norwich University 2016