Fall 2004

American Constitutional Development Syllabus

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I. **Course Description**  A survey of American constitutional development from British and colonial origins to the present, emphasizing the history of the Supreme Court and the development of the constitutional framework.

II. **Rationale**  This course directly supports Aims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of the Liberty University Statement of Purpose.

III. **Prerequisite**  GOVT 200 or GOVT 220, six hours of American history

IV. **Materials List**  
American Constitutional Development: Outline and Readings  
Evans, M. Stanton. *The Theme Is Freedom* [E]  
McDonald, Forrest. *A Constitutional History of the United States* [M]  
Websites:  
http://www.wesriddle.com/

IV. **Course Objectives/Requirements**

1. To provide an overview of the key ideas and purposes that have shaped the American political experiment and introduce the major sources of American constitutional development from the colonial period to the present.

2. To better equip students to understand, participate in, and evaluate American political processes.

VI. **Graded Requirements**

1. Each student is responsible for completing reading assignments prior to class and should keep a loose-leaf notebook of class materials. It is suggested that readings and study aids be brought to class.

2. Participation is an essential part of class. Students should be prepared to discuss textbook readings and current events.

3. Students will be tested on the lecture and reading material through a series of seven tests. (100% of the grade)

4. Tests must be taken at the scheduled date and time. The lowest test score will be dropped if the student visits and writes a 2-3 page report on Monticello, Montpelier, or Red Hill; or participates in one of three panel discussions to be held late in the semester. Topics might cover a wide range of issues, such as the Pledge of Allegiance and other expressions of faith, marriage and families, environmental regulation, women in the military, the war on terrorism, illegal immigration, or the judicial usurpation of politics.

5. **Honors:** Each student is encouraged to read one of the books listed below and write a brief 5-7 page abstract. Some of the shorter works by Alvarado, Amos, Bradford, Burgess, Carey, Kendall, Kirk, Lutz, Maier, McIlwain, Morley, Norton, Rushdoony, or Storing are especially recommended. The abstract should summarize the author’s thesis (argument) and major points, then give a critical evaluation. The books may be chosen
on a first come, first served basis. The lowest test score will be dropped upon satisfactory completion of this assignment.

6. The grading scale is 100-90=A, 89-70=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59 and below=F.

VII. Attendance Students are required to arrive on time for every class meeting. Students who are absent due to illness or emergency should notify the professor prior to class or soon afterward. Excused absences include participation in university-sponsored events, serious illness (if accompanied by a physician’s note), or a family emergency. Eight absences will result in a failing grade. Persistent tardiness will also have a detrimental effect on grades.

VIII. Dress Code Observe the Liberty Way. Food is not permitted. Students who are not in appropriate campus attire will not be admitted to class.

IX. Office Location, Phone, E-Mail, Hours

School of Business and Government, DH 1031
Phone: 582-2640
E-Mail: ssamson@liberty.edu
Hours: MWF 1:20-2:10, 3:20-4:10; TR 8:00-10:40; by appointment

CLASS SCHEDULE

August
Wed. 25 Introduction; Federalist 10: www.constitution.org/fed/federa10.htm
Fri. 27 Federalist 10; Federalist 39: www.constitution.org/fed/federa39.htm
Mon. 30 Federalist 51: www.constitution.org/fed/federa51.htm; Antifederalist

September
Wed. 1 Francis Lieber [Convocation]
Fri. 3 Lieber; Wesley Allen Riddle
Mon. 6 Riddle; E. Introduction
Wed. 8 E. 1
Fri. 10 E. 2
Mon. 13 E. 3
Wed. 15 E. 4; FIRST QUIZ: Evans, 1-3; Riddle; Lieber; Federalist and Anti-Federalist
Fri. 17 E. 5
Mon. 20 E. 6
Wed. 22 E. 7
Fri. 24 E. 8
Mon. 27 E. 9; Collateral: Helen Silving [see Blackboard]
Wed. 29 E. 10; SECOND QUIZ: Evans, 4-8 [may be given on Friday]

October
Fri. 1 E. 11
Mon. 4 E. 12
Wed. 6 E. 13; Collateral: David Hall: www.caledonianfire.org/caledonianfire/docs/declarationhall.htm
Fri. 8 E. 14
Mon. 11 E. 15
Wed. 13 E. 16; THIRD QUIZ: Evans, 9-12
Fri. 15 E. 17
Mon. 18 Preliminary Panel Discussion Meeting
Wed. 20 Ellis Sandoz: www.townhall.com/phillysoc/sandozrule.htm
Fri. 22  Sandoz; M. Preface
Mon. 25  M. 1; FOURTH QUIZ: Evans, 13-17
Wed. 27  M. 1
Fri. 29  M. 2

November
Mon. 1  M. 2
Wed. 3  M. 3
Fri. 5  M. 3; FIFTH QUIZ: Samson, McDonald, Preface, 1-2
Mon. 8  M. 4; Collateral: David Crockett: www.constitution.org/con/crockett.txt
Wed. 10  M. 4
Fri. 12  M. 5
Mon. 15  M. 5
Wed. 17  M. 6
Fri. 19  M. 6
Mon. 22  THANKSGIVING BREAK
Wed. 24  THANKSGIVING BREAK
Fri. 26  THANKSGIVING BREAK
Mon. 29  M. 7

December
Wed. 1  M. 7; SIXTH QUIZ: McDonald, 3-6
Fri. 3  M. 8
Mon. 5  M. 8
Wed. 8  M. 9
Fri. 10  M. 9; SEVENTH QUIZ: McDonald, 7-9

SELECTED WEBSITES

Historical and Educational
American Christian Heritage Week: www.achw.org
American Christian History Institute: www.achipa.com
American Reformation Project: www.americanreformation.org
American Vision: www.americanvision.org
Center for Christian Statesmanship: www.statesmanship.org
Constitution Society: www.constitution.org
Foundation for American Christian Education: www.face.net
Freedoms Foundation: www.ffvf.org
Mayflower Institute: www.mayflowerinstitute.org
Pilgrim Institute: www.pilgriminstitute.org
Plymouth Rock Foundation: www.plymrock.org
Providence Foundation: www.providencefoundation.org
Russell Kirk Center: www.kirkcenter.org
WallBuilders: www.wallbuilders.com
Williamsburg Charter: www.religioustolerance.org/wil_burg.htm

Legal
Alliance Defense Fund: www.alliancedefensefund.org
American Center for Law and Justice: www.aclj.org
American Family Association Center for Law and Policy: www.afa.net/clp
Christian Law Association: www.christianlaw.org
Christian Legal Society: www.christianlegalsociety.org
Federalist Society: www.fed-soc.org
Home School Legal Defense Association: www.hslda.org
Liberty Counsel: www.lc.org
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The bibliography in the Evans book is a good source of supporting material. Donald Lutz has written and edited several books that trace the political and documentary development of our constitutional tradition. The University of Szeged in Hungary has been sponsoring research on American historical documents. Recent bibliographies citing foundation documents and secondary literature may be found at http://www.jate.u-szeged.hu/~gnovak/s99foundationdocs.htm and, more comprehensively, http://www.jate.u-szeged.hu/~gnovak/crsdocuments.htm#fed.

The Federalist Papers may be accessed at http://memory.loc.gov./const/fed/fedpapers.html
Anti-Federalist writings and other early documents are available at http://www.constitution.org/afp/afp.htm


**Remembering Who We Are: Observations of a Southern Conservative.** Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1985. F 209.5 B7


Press, 1957. JC 599 U5 P6
Vaughan, Alden T., ed. Chronicles of the American Revolution: Originally Compiled by Hezekiah Niles
________. The Supreme Court in United States History. 2 vols. Boston: Little, Brown, 1926. JK 1561 W3