

**Professors Patricia A. Broussard  
Constitutional Law I  
Spring 2015**

**Course Number: 5501**

**Section: 301**

**M/W 11:30 – 12:45**

**Office: 407-254-3293**

**Email: [patricia.broussard@famu.edu](mailto:patricia.broussard@famu.edu)**

**Office Hours: M/W 1 – 2PM; 3:15 – 4PM**

**Also, By Appointment**

**Course Description and Goals**

***Constitution Law I is a three- credit course with four main objectives: First, you should develop an understanding of the role of the judiciary in shaping society and our system of government. Second, you should become familiar with the most important principles of constitutional law and the historical context of the cases you analyze. Third, you should develop the ability to summarize court cases into concise legal briefs. Fourth, you should develop an ability to use precedents, logic, and evidence to evaluate Supreme Court decisions and predict future court decisions.***

**The following rules govern this class:**

1. *Laptops are not permitted in class.*
2. *Lateness over 10 minutes will be counted as an absence.*
3. *Preparation is mandatory; failure to be prepared three times will result in a ½ step grade reduction, e.g. from a B- to a C+.*
4. *You must be respectful and professional at all times.*
5. *As a general rule, we will discuss ½ the cases listed on Mondays and the other ½ on Wednesdays; if there is an odd number we will discuss the larger portion on Mondays, e.g. 13= 7 on Mon., 6 on Wed.*
6. *You cannot exceed five absences without receiving an administrative “F.”*
7. **THERE ARE 137 CASES IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW I: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THEM.**
8. **Grades: 100% from the final – Extra Credit can be given at Professor’s discretion.**
9. **Final grades are subject to the Law School's grade normalization policy; there is a B- curve for this class.**
10. **Professor reserves the right to give a mid-term which would comprise 25% of the final grade and to give for-credit quizzes as deemed appropriate.**
11. **NOTE\*\*\* TEXT IS THE 4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION**

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, you should:

1. Be able to read and brief a US Supreme Court Case.
2. Be able to analyze a Supreme Court case using context rules, history, public policy, and politics.
3. Be conversant with the US Constitution.
4. Identify the source of judicial review.
5. Recognize the source(s) of the federal legislative and executive powers.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of Articles I, II, and III of the US Constitution.
7. Be able to demonstrate the skills enumerated in the “course description.”

\*\*Students will demonstrate these skills through quizzes, exams, classroom participation and in-class exercises. \*\*

**Texts:**

- Erwin Chemerinsky, *Constitutional Law* (4th ed. Aspen 2013) ISBN: 978-1-4548-1753-6
- Erwin Chemerinsky, *Constitutional Law: Principles and Policies* (4th ed. Aspen 2006). ISBN: 978-0-7355-9897-3

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Three main questions for the first three chapters in analyzing Articles I, II, and III:**

1. What is the power being discussed?
2. What is the source of that power (e.g. constitution, statute, etc.)?
3. What are the checks and balances on the power?

**WEEK ONE**

- ❖ **Read Article III of the U.S. Constitution; Constitutional Law: Principles and Policies pp. 1 - 47**
- ❖ **Chapter One: The Federal Judicial Powers pp. 1 – 40**
  - Introduction
  - A. **The authority for judicial review**
    - *Marbury v. Madison*
    - *Martin v. Hunter's Lessee*
    - *Cohens v. Virginia*