COURSE OUTLINE

JUST 315 – Constitutional Law for Criminal Justice Professionals

Prepared By: Susan E. Buckley
Updated By: Kevin Carvill
A. **TITLE**: Constitutional Law for Criminal Justice Professionals

B. **COURSE NUMBER**: JUST 315

C. **CREDIT HOURS**: 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE**: No

E. **WEEKS PER SEMESTER**: 15 weeks

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED**: Spring

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY**: Three hours lecture per week.

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**: This course is an examination of the U.S. Constitution and how it guides the procedures and practices of the American criminal justice system, with an emphasis on law enforcement issues. Topics include an historical overview of the Constitution, our country’s legal system and the role of the U.S. Supreme Court. Topics also focus on maintaining the balance between individual, state and federal rights, due process, searches and seizures, gun control, obtaining information legally, and rights related to the trial process.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES**: Pre-requisite: JUST 101 or LEST 101 and 45 credit hours completed, or permission of the instructor.

J. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**: By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Institutional SLO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Defend the primary purpose of the Constitution and how it is achieved.</td>
<td>2. Critical thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Discuss the shifting balance between the U.S. criminal justice system and individual liberties.</td>
<td>2. Critical thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Compare the role of the U.S. Supreme Court with lower courts regarding the role of judicial review in shaping civil liberties.</td>
<td>2. Critical thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Analyze major controversies that have involved the interpretation of the Second Amendment.</td>
<td>2. Critical thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Contrast the reasonableness clause and the warrant clause of the Fourth Amendment.</td>
<td>2. Critical thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Explain the practical application of rights guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment.</td>
<td>2. Critical thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Appraise the role of the Sixth Amendment to the adversarial process of the U.S. criminal justice system.</td>
<td>2. Critical thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Analyze the three basic rights protected by the Eight Amendment.</td>
<td>2. Critical thinking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


L. **REFERENCES**: The U.S. Constitution
M. EQUIPMENT: None

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. MEASURING CRITERIA:
- Quizzes
- Exams
- Papers
- Participation

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. A Foundation for Understanding Constitutional Law
   A. Historical overview
   B. Overview of the U.S. legal system
   C. U.S. Supreme court
      i. Jurisdiction
      ii. Judicial review

II. Guarantees of the Constitution: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
   A. Balancing individual, state, and federal rights
      i. Due process
      ii. Discrimination
   B. Basic freedoms of the First Amendment
      i. Freedom of speech
      ii. Freedom of press
      iii. Freedom of religion
      iv. Right to peaceful assembly
   C. The Second Amendment and gun control
      i. Historical perspective
      ii. Current debate
      iii. Law enforcement response

III. The Fourth Amendment: Governing Constitutional Searches and Seizures
   A. Overview
      i. Historical perspective
      ii. Reasonableness and probable cause clauses
      iii. Search warrants
      iv. Arrest warrants
      v. Stop and frisk
      vi. Exceptions
      vii. State law v federal
   B. Constitutional seizures
      i. Stop v arrest
      ii. Lawful arrests
      iii. Pursuit
      iv. Use of force
      v. Citizen’s arrest
   C. Constitutional searches
      i. Scope of a search
      ii. Search with a warrant
iii. Search without a warrant
iv. Border searches
v. Special needs
vi. Electronic searches

IV. Due Process: The Fifth, Sixth and Eighth Amendments
A. Fifth Amendment and obtaining information legally
   i. Due process
   ii. Confessions
   iii. Application of Miranda
   iv. Public safety exception
   v. Miranda violations
   vi. Using informants
   vii. Entrapment
   viii. Application in correctional system
   ix. USA Patriot Act

B. The Sixth Amendment: Right to Counsel and Fair Trial
   i. Scheduling trial
   ii. Jury selection
   iii. Right to counsel
   iv. Juvenile defendants
   v. Application in correctional system

C. The Eighth Amendment: Bail, Fines and Punishment
   i. Historical perspective
   ii. Bail
   iii. Fines
   iv. Cruel and unusual punishment
   v. Capital punishment
   vi. Application in correctional system

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: N/A