

# CAPITAL COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## SECTION I

SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER:      LAW 104

COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO  
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

UNITS: 3

### CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce the student to legal reasoning and provide understanding of the workings of the Federal System of justice. The focus will be on supereme court cases and the powers of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

LECTURE HOURS PER WEEK: 3

### PREREQUISITE:

None

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide students with an understanding of the workings of the various branches of government and sources of their authority.
2. To provide students with an understanding of case law and its impact on criminal justice practices.
3. To provide students with an understainding of the nature and scope of authority of the U.S. Supreme court.
4. To provide students with a a review of the U.S. Constitution and relevant decisions impacting police powers.

## SECTION II

### 1. COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE:

#### A. OUTLINE OF TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE COURSE

The following topics will be included in the framework of the course but are not intended as a limit on content. The order of presentation and relative emphasis may vary with each instructor.

1. The judicial function in constitutional cases.
  - a) The nature and scope of the Supreme Courts
  - b) Authority

#### B. THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT: NATION AND STATES IN THE FEDERAL SYSTEM

1. National powers and local activities: Regions and current themes.
2. Separation of powers

#### C. BILL OF RIGHTS AND POST CIVIL WAR AMENDMENTS: FUNDAMENTAL PROCEDURAL RIGHTS AND THE INCORPORATION DISPUTE

#### D. SUBSTANTIVE DUE PROCESS: RISE, DECLINE, REVIVAL

#### E. EQUAL PROTECTION

1. An Overview

#### F. POST CIVIL WAR AMENDMENT AND CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION

#### G. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

#### H. THE CONSTITUTION AND RELIGION

#### I. PROPER CONDITION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

#### J. REVIEW OF CONSTITUTIONAL CASES IMPACTING CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### SECTION III

#### 1. COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE:

##### A. Appropriate Reading

Reading assignments will supplement the course lectures and prepare the student for participation in class discussions.

1. Weekly readings will be distributed and assigned along with the regular reading for textbook.
2. Handouts will be distributed for reading

##### B. Writing Assignments

1. The writing assignment will be used to measure the student's ability to communicate his/her an opinion on a constitutional issue. The student will be graded on grammar and thought.
2. Students will be responsible for a five (5) to ten (10) page typewritten essay on any subject related to the constitution.

##### C. Appropriate Outside Assignments

1. Reading from class books and handout material.
2. One (1) typewritten essay of five (5) to ten (10) pages.
3. Assigned readings

##### D. Appropriate assignments that demonstrate critical thinking.

Critical thinking will be required of students in such assignments as the written essays, student participation at lectures, and in the student's written ability to respond to questions on mid-term and final exam.

2. METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Evaluation will be based on performance of a variety of assignments such as in class and out of class writing assignments, quizzes, essay examinations, class discussion and participation.

Examination I	10%
Examination 2; Mid-term	20%
Examination 3	10%
Examination 4; Final	25%
Essay	20%
Class participation	15%

3. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Methods of instruction will include lecture, lecture/discussion, audio/visual aids and any other unique instructional strategy as shall be determined by each instructor.

4. REQUIRED TEXTS AND SUPPLIES

The following text will be reviewed for recommendation:

Gerald Gunther, Constitutional Law, 12th Edition. (New York, The Foundation Press, Inc. 1991)

Textbook:

Gerald Gunther, Constitutional Law, 12th Edition (New York, The Foundation Press, Inc. 1991)

OUTLINE OF CHAPTERS

<u>Week</u>	<u>Readings for class</u>
1	Orientation
2.	Chapters 1,2
3.	Chapter 3
4.	Chapter 4, Exam #1
5.	Chapter 5
6.	Chapter 6
7.	Chapter 7
8.	Chapter 8, Mid-term exam
9.	Chapters 9
10.	Chapter 10
11.	Chapter 11
12.	Chapter 12, Exam #2
13.	Chapter 13
14.	Chapters 14, 15
15.	Final Exam, paper due