

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Of the City University of New York
Department of History, Philosophy and Political Science

Course Syllabus

Course Title: Constitutional Law
Number: POL 66 Credits/Hours: 3 Credits/30 Hours
Instructor: **Mr. Kaminsky** Email: **Rkamins2@schools.nyc.gov**

Course Description

This course presents fundamental concepts and doctrines of Constitutional Law. The students will learn the background of the writing and implementation of the Constitution. The class will then focus on the rights given to people in the Bill of Rights. The class will discuss how the amendments were created and how they impact people's daily lives. The semester will conclude with a discussion of how the Constitution will deal with some issues taking place today and in the future.

Learning Goals:

1. To develop students' basic understanding of the workings of the U.S. Constitution.
2. To give students an understanding of how the Constitution impacts aspects of the legal system.
3. To give students an understanding of how the Constitution impacts aspects of their student's lives.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to understand:

1. How were the amendments created?
2. Why were some amendments created after the Bill of Rights?
3. How does the Constitution impact the criminal justice system?
4. How does the Constitution impact the daily lives of the students?
5. How would people's lives be different without the Constitution?
6. How could the Constitution change in the immediate future?

Assessment:

This course will employ the following instruments to measure students' learning and will test reading comprehension and fluency as well as mastery of critical thinking skills.

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| 1. Midterm Exam, Exams, Quizzes, Written Assignments,
Projects and Final Exam | 70% |
| 2. Participation/Attendance | 30% |

Class Breakdown

Section 1: Overview

1. Why did the Constitution replace the Articles of Confederation?
2. Why was the Bill of Rights created?
3. Why has the Constitution been amended over time?

Section 2: First Amendment

1. What rights are included in the amendment?
2. How does it impact the legal system?

3. How does it impact the student's lives?

Section 3 Second Amendment

1. What rights are included in the amendment?
2. What are the opposing viewpoints on the issue of gun control?
3. Should gun companies be sued for gun crimes?

Section 4 Fourth Amendment

1. What rights are included in the amendment?
2. Should the police be allowed to search people without a warrant?
3. What are examples of situations when the police do not need a warrant?
4. How should the issue of tech usage be impacted by the amendment?

Section 5 Fifth Amendment

1. What rights are included in the amendment?
2. Should the double jeopardy provision be removed?
3. Should people be forced to testify?

Section 6 Sixth Amendment

1. What rights are included in the amendment?
2. Should people accused of crimes have an attorney?
3. Are all attorneys fair representation?

Section 7 Eighth Amendment

1. What rights are included in the amendment?
2. Should the three strikes policy be completely eliminated?
3. What should be considered cruel and unusual punishment?