

COURSE OUTLINE

<u>HIS207</u>	<u>American Constitutional History</u>				<u>3</u>
Course Number	Course Title				Credits
<u>Telecourse</u>	<u>0/week</u>	<u>0/week</u>	<u>0/week</u>	<u>15 weeks</u>	
Class or Lab	Laboratory,	Shop, Work	Semester	Length	
Lecture	Work Hrs	Studio or Clinic	Experience		
<u>Not Applicable</u>				<u>Applicable</u>	
Performance on an Examination/Demonstration				Telecourse	

Required Materials:

Reference Humanities Division booklist.

Catalog Description:

A study of the Constitution's place in American history, with emphasis on presidential authority, judicial interpretation, constitutional crises, the evolution of federalism, and the status of civil liberty, past and present. (May not be taken for credit by students who earned a C or higher in HY 337.)

Latest Review: Fall 2004

Course Coordinator:

I. Sequence of Topics

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Antecedents: Continental Congress, The Confederation
2-3	The Constitutional Convention and Federal America
4	John Marshall's Judiciary in the Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Era.
5	Property Rights and Privileges Defended: The 19th Century Constitution (Taney to Fuller)
6	Progressivism: Conflict in the Law (Holmes & Brandeis Dissenting)
7	The New Deal, Constitutional Crisis, and Change in the Judiciary
8	The Earl Warren Era: Civil Rights and Desegregation
9	Burger, Nixon, and Beyond
10-11	The Presidency vs. Congress: F.D.R. Truman, L.B.J. and Nixon
12	Issues: National Security, Freedom of the press From John Adams to the present
13	Issues: School Prayer, Gun Control and Right of Assembly - Past and Present
14-15	The Changing Nature of Federalism

II. General Objectives

The student will acquire a knowledge and understanding of Constitutional concerns and conflicts in an historical setting and an appreciation of how the Constitution has functioned in the past and does function today.

III. Specific Objectives

The student will:

- 1) become familiar with the origins of the Union and its predating the Constitution in Continental Congress and the Articles of Confederation.

- 2) understand the motives and interests at work in the Constitutional Convention.
- 3) become familiar with the developing Presidency, Judiciary and Congress in the Federal Era and during the last two centuries.
- 4) understand the conflicts between privileged and liberal justice in America.
- 5) examine and understand the implications of constitutional crises such as those of F.D.R. and Richard Nixon.
- 6) understand the evolution of civil liberties in action.
- 7) examine and appreciate various constitutional issues, including freedom of the press and religion.

IV. Evaluation

- 1) The student will have to complete three examinations, with a choice of comprehension essay-style or objective questions.
- 2) Examinations will be based on text readings and the viewing of thirteen videotapes over the air or in the M.C.C.C. library.
- 3) The student will write a book review of about four or five pages.