CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF THE FEDERAL SYSTEM
POLS 4170 FALL 2010

Dr. Daugherty, UH 218
Office hours: M-W, 12:00-1:20; T-R, 12:00-12:50, or by appointment.
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ACCEPTANCE: Students are responsible for the contents of this syllabus; continued enrollment in this course constitutes awareness and acceptance of all requirements and policies discussed therein.


OVERVIEW: This course explores the way in which the American Constitution has, through judicial interpretation of the Constitution, shaped both the horizontal division of power at the federal level and the vertical division of power between the federal government on one hand, and the state/local governments on the other, focusing mostly on the latter. This course will delve deeply and particularly into the use of the Interstate Commerce Clause to expand the reach of federal power, in support of our Moot Court team’s coming competition.

EXPECTATIONS: This is a difficult class and will require consistent attention and preparation work. The class will be conducted as any law school seminar, utilizing the Socratic method. Students who are not prepared for class each day, who do not brief each and every case, and who are not willing to respond verbally during each class period should not enroll in this class. A separate work sheet detailing the specific requirements is attached to this syllabus.

CELL PHONES: Cell phones/PDAs/Beepers are to be turned off and stowed out of sight.

TEXTING ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN: Any student seen texting during class will have their final grade lowered one letter on the first offence. The second offence will result in being immediately dropped from the class with a WF.

HONOR CODE: All sections of the AASU Student Honor Code and Code of Conduct will apply to this class. Under the Honor Code, plagiarism, cheating, facilitating academic dishonesty, and fabrication in any form or manner are forbidden. Additional restrictions or instructions given in class on any individual assignment, whether verbal or written, will also fall under the Honor Code. Absence from the class when any additional instructions are given is not a valid excuse if a violation of the instructions results in an Honor or Conduct Code violation. Students will also be required sign each examination, which
acknowledges that the student has followed the Honor Code and any additional restrictions/instructions given in class.

**HONOR VIOLATION POLICY:** I will accuse no student of violating the Honor Code unless I can prove beyond a doubt that the student is guilty. At that time, the student will be dropped from the class and his or her name will be transmitted to the Dean of Student Affairs along with the proof, for a formal hearing before the Honor Court. Although the Honor Code permits a professor an option to handle the transgression in an “informal” manner versus submitting the case to the Honor Court, I will not do so. Before the Honor Court, I will urge that the student receive the maximum penalty possible, to wit: an F for the semester, suspension from school for one year, and the findings of the Court to be made a permanent part of the student’s record. This penalty will definitely affect your life, particularly if you are close to graduation or will be seeking a career in which a background check will be required; you need to weigh whether the consequences are worth the risk.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Students who participate frequently and positively in class by asking questions and engaging in debates and discussions will receive, at my discretion and based solely on my judgment, additional credit that could elevate the final grade one full letter.

**GRADING:** Your course grade will be determined by the quality of your case briefs, by your class participation (which is, remember, required every day), and by the grades received on bi-weekly quizzes. Specifics will be given out the first day of class.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** No extra credit will be given to an individual. Extra credit will be granted only in situations in which the entire class is able to participate (e.g., attending an off-campus lecture). The success to passing this course is to do well in class and on the quizzes.

**ABSENCE POLICY:** Your attendance in this class matters a great deal to your ability to learn this difficult material; you should endeavor to be present every day. You are permitted four absences, period, regardless of reason. There is no need to explain to me the reasons or to justify them. Absences beyond four will penalized 20 points each. However, I retain the right to either give you an F or to drop you from the class with a WF if your absences exceed six.

**CLASS NOTES:** If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the class notes and any instructions for papers from one of your classmates.

**SYLLABUS:**