Course Objectives: We will study federal constitutional law with an emphasis on the special role of the federal courts in creating constitutional law. Topics to be studied include the nature of judicial review, the separation of powers, federalism, the commerce clause, the "dormant" commerce clause, the "case or controversy requirement," and the political question doctrine.

Prerequisites: None


Grading: The final examination will be 3 hours long. It will be an open book examination.

To arrange a make-up examination, students are to consult with Associate Dean Sobelson. The decision to allow students to take make-up examinations will be based on the policies stated in the College of Law Bulletin.

Office Hours: I have an open door policy. In addition, appointments can be scheduled by calling 404-413-9161.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. United States Constitution

2. pp. 1-27: Judicial Review


4. pp. 272-300: Separation of Powers

5. pp. 300-309, 315-326 n.1: Separation of Powers

7. pp. 60-81: Federalism
8. pp. 82-106: Federalism
10. pp. Federalism Handout
11. pp. 143-147 n.3, 163-167, Dormant Commerce Clause Handout
12. pp. Dormant Commerce Clause Handout
13. pp. Standing Handout
14. pp. Ripeness, Mootness & Political Question Handout

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.