

Course Outline: Constitutional Law for Bachelor's in Law

Course Title: Constitutional Law

Course Code: LAW 201

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Introduction to Law (LAW 101) or equivalent

Course Level: Undergraduate (Year 2)

Course Duration: One Semester (15 Weeks)

Course Description

Constitutional Law is a core course in the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) program, designed to introduce students to the foundational principles, doctrines, and structures of constitutional governance. This course examines the nature, functions, and limits of government power, the protection of individual rights, and the role of the judiciary in interpreting and enforcing constitutional provisions. Through an in-depth study of case law, statutes, and theoretical frameworks, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the constitutional framework within which legal systems operate.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and articulate the basic principles and concepts of constitutional law.
2. Analyze the structure and functions of government institutions under the constitution.
3. Examine the distribution of powers between various branches of government.
4. Critically evaluate the role of the judiciary in constitutional interpretation.
5. Assess the protection and enforcement of fundamental rights under constitutional law.
6. Develop legal reasoning and analytical skills through the study of landmark constitutional cases.

Course Benefits

- **Foundation for Legal Practice:** Understanding constitutional law is essential for any legal practitioner, as it forms the bedrock of legal systems and informs many areas of law, including criminal, administrative, and human rights law.
- **Critical Thinking:** The course encourages students to think critically about the balance of power in government, the role of courts, and the protection of individual rights.
- **Professional Competence:** Knowledge of constitutional law is crucial for careers in law, public administration, and policy-making.
- **Civic Awareness:** Students will gain a deeper understanding of their rights and responsibilities as citizens and the functioning of democratic governance.
- **Judicial Preparation:** For those interested in a judicial career, this course provides a solid foundation in the principles of constitutional adjudication.

Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction to Constitutional Law

- Definition and scope of constitutional law
- Sources of constitutional law (written constitutions, statutes, judicial decisions)
- Constitutionalism and the rule of law

Week 2: Historical Development of Constitutional Law

- Evolution of constitutional law
- Comparative analysis of constitutional systems
- The role of constitutional conventions

Week 3: The Concept of Sovereignty

- Definition and theories of sovereignty
- Sovereignty in a constitutional framework
- The impact of globalization on sovereignty

Week 4: Separation of Powers

- The doctrine of separation of powers
- Legislative, executive, and judicial functions
- Checks and balances within the constitutional framework

Week 5: Federalism and Decentralization

- Federal and unitary systems of government
- Distribution of powers between central and regional governments
- Advantages and challenges of federalism

Week 6: The Executive Branch

- Structure and functions of the executive
- Powers and responsibilities of the President/Prime Minister
- Executive accountability and oversight mechanisms

Week 7: The Legislative Branch

- Composition and functions of the legislature
- Legislative procedures and processes
- Bicameralism and unicameralism

Week 8: The Judicial Branch

- Structure and functions of the judiciary
- Judicial independence and impartiality
- The role of the judiciary in constitutional interpretation

Week 9: Judicial Review

- The concept and scope of judicial review
- Landmark cases in judicial review
- Limits and criticisms of judicial review

Week 10: Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

- Definition and classification of fundamental rights
- The role of the constitution in protecting rights
- Case studies on fundamental rights

Week 11: Equality and Non-Discrimination

- Constitutional principles of equality and non-discrimination
- Affirmative action and positive discrimination

- Major cases on equality rights

Week 12: Constitutional Amendments

- Processes and procedures for amending the constitution
- Limits on constitutional amendments
- The role of constitutional courts in amendments

Week 13: Emergency Powers and Constitutional Law

- Constitutional provisions for states of emergency
- The balance between security and civil liberties
- Case studies on the use and abuse of emergency powers

Week 14: International Law and Constitutional Law

- The relationship between international law and domestic constitutions
- The role of treaties in constitutional law
- Case studies on the impact of international law on constitutional law

Week 15: Review and Examination Preparation

- Review of key concepts and principles
- Discussion of potential examination questions
- Final Q&A and preparation tips

Assessment Methods

- **Class Participation:**
- **Midterm Exam:**
- **Research Paper/Case Study Analysis:**
- **Final Exam: -**

Recommended Reading

1. **Constitutional Law: Principles and Policies** by Erwin Chemerinsky
2. **Constitutional Law: Cases and Materials** by Jonathan D. Varat, Vikram David Amar
3. **The Constitution of Liberty** by Friedrich Hayek

4. Relevant case law and statutes will be provided throughout the course.

Additional Resources

- **Online Databases:** Westlaw, LexisNexis, HeinOnline
- **Constitutional Law Journals:** Harvard Law Review, Yale Law Journal
- **Websites:** Constitution.org, SCOTUSblog

This course outline is designed to provide law students with a robust understanding of constitutional law, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge for both academic and professional success



Yoweri Museveni
President, 1986 to date



Tito Okello Lutwa
1985-1986



Paulo Muwanga
May-December, 1980



Godfrey Binaisa
1979-1980



Yusuf Lule
April to June 1979



Idi Amin
1971-1979



Milton Obote
1966-71/80-85



Edward Mutesa,
1963-1966