

SYLLABUS
PART I
EDISON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PLS 225S CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
3 CREDIT HOURS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Survey of the development of constitutional doctrine. Examines the principal methods by which justices of the United States Supreme Court give meaning to constitutional provisions that impact the powers of national government and the regulatory power of the states.

COURSE GOALS

The student will:

Bloom's Level		Gen Ed Outcomes
3	1. Apply federal case law to various categories of national power and state regulatory power.	1, 6
4	2. Analyze the relationship among the three branches of the government and its impact on federal law.	1, 6
4	3. Explain the impact of policies on the development of the Constitution and to its interpretation.	1, 6
4	4. Compare and contrast the impact of the judicial, executive, and legislative branches on constitutional law.	1, 6

CORE VALUES

The Core Values are a set of principles that guide in creating educational programs and environments at Edison. They include communication, ethics, critical thinking, human diversity, inquiry/respect for learning, and interpersonal skills/teamwork. The goals, objectives, and activities in this course will introduce/reinforce these Core Values whenever appropriate.

TOPIC LIST

1. Formation of the Constitution.
2. Influence of natural law on the writing of the Constitution.
3. Establishment and contesting of judicial review power of the Supreme Court.
4. Politics of constitutional interpretation.
5. Jurisdiction and justiciable controversies.
6. Avenues of appeal to the Supreme Court.
7. Political question doctrine and its implications to the Supreme Court.
8. Impact of Supreme Court decisions: compliance and implementation
9. Presidential power, the rule of law, and foreign affairs.
10. President as chief executive in domestic affairs and its constitutional implications.
11. Congress: membership, immunities, and investigatory powers.
12. Congress: legislative, taxing, and spending.
13. States and American Federalism.
14. Representative government, voting rights, and electoral politics.