CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
SYLLABUS

SPRING – 2014

PROFFESSOR: Judge Jose M. Rodriguez
Adjunct Professor

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment
Dade County Courthouse
73 West Flagler St. Room 400
Miami, Florida 33130
305-349-7109

COURSE DESCRIPTION – To provide the student with the understanding of the scope and activities involved in functions of Constitutional Law through leading cases and its relationship to the total protection of the individual rights.

PURPOSE – The purpose of this course is to provide the students with an introduction to the Constitution of the United States and help them understand the basic rights of the People.

COURSE CONTENT
1. THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION AND MADSONIAN DEMOCRACY
2. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
3. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH
4. THE JUDICIAL BRANCH
5. FEDERALISM
6. COMMERCE POWER ENCOMPASSING CONGRESSIONAL POWER
7. GUARANTEES AND PROTECTION OF RIGHTS
8. THE CONSTITUTION, THE TREE COMPONENTS DEMOCRACY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
9. DUE PROCESS
10. PRIVACY, ABORTION, AND END OF LIFE DECISIONS.
11. EQUAL PROTECTION
12. FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Reading Assignments**: They are to be kept current unless otherwise specified in advance. They are to be prepared prior to the class date. The class is invited to bring any controversial issues up for discussion. Active oral participation is required.

2. **Tests**: There will be two (2) examinations. They will be administered according to the attached scheduled. The tests will be a combination of true-false, multiple choice, matching questions and or essays. The questions for the examinations will be taken from the text book. All the examinations are due on the date they are scheduled. If a test is given and the student is not present, his/her grade will be zero (0) and will be counted toward the final grade average. No make up examinations will be given unless the student brings “medical evidence in writing” of his/her inability to come on the exam date. In seldom occasions, exceptions will be made if the instructor feels the student has an adequate excuse. In both instances, notification must be made on or before the examination date to explain the reason for missing it.

4. **Attendance requirements**: Regular attendance is required. You must be in class on time and prepared to be counted present for the class period. If you miss more than three classes scheduled in sequence, you may be dropped from the course. If you have an emergency which prevents you from attending class, you will need to inform me of the emergency so that I may be able to excuse you.

THREE TARDIES ARE EQUAL TO ONE ABSENCE, ANY ARRIVAL TO CLASS MORE THAN 30 MINUTES AFTER THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED TIME SHALL CONSTITUTE TARDINESS.

5. **Term Paper**: NONE

6. **Required Text**: THE STUDENT’S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, John D. DeLeo, Jr.
7. **Final evaluation:** Grades. The instructor will utilize the following categories in evaluation student’s performance:

Test:
Midterm Exam will be counted 25 per cent of the final score. The Final Exam will be counted 50 per cent of the final. Class participation will be counted 25 per cent of the final grade according to the following schedule:

**GRADES**

**A** 90 to 100  
**B** 80 to 89  
**C** 70 to 79  
**D** 60 to 69  
**F** 60 and under

8. **Incomplete Grades:** They will be awarded when there is a valid reason. All incomplete grades will automatically become (F) if not completed within two (2) semesters unless an exception exists.

9. **Office Hours:** The instructor encourages all students to contact him concerning problems related to the course or course material. Office hours are posted outside the instructor’s office and are specified on the front page of this syllabus.

10. **Honor Code:** For this class a violation of the Honor Code will occur if:

   a. A student copies or paraphrases any other material, including other student’s paper, examinations, readings, term papers, projects, reports, etc. Student will assume that it is to be individual work unless it is specifically stated by the instructor in each case that it is to be team effort.

   b. A student allows another student to copy or paraphrase any material that is in his/her draft or final paper, examinations, readings, term papers, projects, reports, etc.

11. **Caveats:** Due to the specialized nature of the course, success in this course is very dependent upon the student's attending all class sessions. If a session is missed, the student should contact the instructor to discuss the missed session and obtain handout materials.
TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

The following course schedule will be followed as much as possible. Deviations will be announced in class. You will receive confirmation of the Final Exam date at least two weeks in advance. All tests and exams include all textbook assigned, reading materials and reading references.

Reading Assignments:

First Class – Introduction / THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION AND MADSONIAN DEMOCRACY
Second Class – THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
Third Class – THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH
Fourth Class – THE JUDICIAL BRANCH
Fifth Class – FEDERALISM
Sixth Class – Midterm Exam
Seventh Class – COMMERCE POWER ENCOMPASSING CONGRESSIONAL POWER
Eighth Class – GUARANTEES AND PROTECTION OF RIGHTS
Ninth Class – THE CONSTITUTION, THE TREE COMPONENTS DEMOCRACY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Tenth Class – DUE PROCESS
Eleventh Class – PRIVACY, ABORTION, AND END OF LIVE DECISIONS
Twelfth Class – Equal Protection
Thirteenth Class -- Review and Final Exam