

Constitutional Law I, Spring 2008  
Professor Mary Jane Morrison  
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Course Description is available at <http://law.hamline.edu/catalog.html>.

Required Text: Barron, Dienes, McCormack, & Redish, *Constitutional Law: Principles and Policy, Cases and Materials* (7th edition, LexisNexis) and 2008 supplement thereto.

Course Goals [aka Learning Outcomes]: Students will learn to read constitutional-law opinions analytically; see doctrinal developments; understand basic doctrinal conflicts among present and past members of the Supreme Court, including understanding the roles history has played and will play in constitutional interpretation; and identify constitutional issues involving justiciability, federal power, separation of powers, federal/state conflicts, and government/individual conflicts. Students also will learn to carry-on constitutional law via case names.

Contact and Office Hours: Contact me through mmorrison@hamline.edu or stop in to see me in my office. I teach this course Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 8 and Con Law II on those days at 10. I expect to have office hours from 11 to at least 1 on those days, subject to faculty colloquia, faculty meetings, and committee meetings. Students also may see me by appointment at mutually-agreed times.

Attendance and Preparation: Prompt, prepared attendance in this class is mandatory under HUSL and ABA rules. The definition of “excessive absences” for this course is “being absent, late, or unprepared for more than 10 percent of the classes.” Excessive absences can result in a student’s not being allowed to take the final exam, which in turn would result in a failing grade for the course.

I will pass a sign-in sheet at each class; by initialing it, you represent that you arrived on time, that you were prepared for class, and that you were present and intending to remain for the whole class. The HUSL Code of Conduct applies to those representations.

Grading: There will be one final, comprehensive exam at the end of this course. One part of the exam will require “case recognition,” meaning students will have to provide two or three sentences describing the facts and rule(s) of three to five named cases because constitutional law argument is carried on using case names.

Laptop policy: If you use your laptop during class for any purpose other than classroom-learning purposes related to this course, I may bar you from using your laptop in future classes. If you use your laptop in ways that create an abusive environment for other members of the class, I may file a complaint against you under the Code of Conduct.

READING ASSIGNMENTS for the first two weeks of class—all pages are references to the casebook or supplement

Jan 20--#1. overview & Ch 1, pp 1-24

Jan 21--#2. 24-47

Jan 23--#3. 47-64 [runs into Ch 2]

Jan 27--#4. 64-83, S 1-2

Jan 28--#5. 83-112

Jan 30--#6. 112-32