Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
PLAW 320
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Constitutional Law analyzes contemporary issues to explore a number of key, constitutional principles, including: separation of powers; federalism; the role of the judiciary in deciding controversial social issues; the First Amendment Free Speech, Establishment Clause, and Free Exercise of Religion clauses; the Commerce Clause as it relates to nationalized health care; and parental rights with respect to education. Students will read judicial opinions each week relating to one of these topics.

RATIONALE

After the founders had drafted the Constitution, Benjamin Franklin was asked by a citizen what type of government they had given the United States. He responded, “A republic, if you can keep it.” Because the American citizenry has forgotten the founding principles and fails to understand what the Constitution was designed to achieve, each branch of the national government continues to exceed the powers granted to it in the Constitution. Building on the basic constitutional principles learned in PLAW 205 (Foundations of Law), this course will analyze constitutional cases to explore how the unconstitutional expansion of the national government threatens the freedoms that the Constitution was designed to protect.

I. PREREQUISITES

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Word
   (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Identify the ways in which the judiciary exceeds its constitutional jurisdiction.
B. Explain how Congress’ expansive reliance on the Commerce Clause is a threat to states’ rights.

C. Explain how a misapplication of the Establishment Clause fosters hostility to the Christian worldview.

D. Explain how a strict constructionist view of the constitution best preserves the delicate balance of separation of powers.

E. Explain the proper role of government with respect to issues concerning parents’ rights to direct the education and upbringing of their children.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes

B. Course Requirements Checklist

   After reading the Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

   There will be 4 Discussion Board Forums throughout this course. The student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided topic for each Discussion Board Forum. Each thread must be 250–300 words in length and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates’ threads. Each reply must be 100–150 words in length.

D. Case Analysis

   The student will be provided a summary of a case (including quoted excerpts from the case) and will be asked to analyze whether the judiciary reached the right result. The student will analyze the case from the perspective of separation of powers and the proper role of the judiciary. Responses must be at least 250 words in length.

E. Short Essay Questions (2)

   The student will be given 2 short essay questions to respond to. Responses must be at least 400 words each.

F. Quizzes (3)

   There will be 3 open-book/open note quizzes with multiple-choice and true/false questions. The student will be given 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete a 30-question quiz. Quiz 1 will cover the course material from Modules/Weeks 1–3, Quiz 2 will cover the course material from Modules/Weeks 4–5, and Quiz 3 will cover the course material from Modules/Weeks 6–7.

G. Final Exam

   The student will be given 2 hours to complete the Final Exam. The exam will be open-book/open-notes. It will contain 2 essay questions and 1 short answer question.
VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums (4 at 75 pts ea)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Analysis</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Essay Questions (2 at 125 pts ea)</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Essay Questions (2 at 125 pts ea)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Essay Questions (2 at 125 pts ea)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (3 at 45 pts ea)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1010</strong></td>
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B. Scale

- A = 900–1010
- B = 800–899
- C = 700–799
- D = 600–699
- F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Quizzes/Exam

For the quizzes and final exam, you will receive a 10-point deduction for every 15 minutes, or any portion thereof, over the time limit (thus 1 minute over is a 15-point deduction; 16 minutes over is a 20-point deduction).

E. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOOGAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
## Course Schedule

### PLAW 320


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Week</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Study</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hall &amp; Feldmeier: chs. 1–2, Appendix A (The Constitution) 1 presentation</td>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hall &amp; Feldmeier: ch. 3 1 presentation</td>
<td>Case Analysis</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hall &amp; Feldmeier: ch. 4 1 presentation 1 article</td>
<td>DB Forum 2 Quiz 1</td>
<td>75 45</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hall &amp; Feldmeier: chs. 5–6 1 presentation</td>
<td>Short Essay Question 1</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hall &amp; Feldmeier: chs. 7–8 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 3 Quiz 2</td>
<td>75 45</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hall &amp; Feldmeier: chs. 9–10 1 presentation</td>
<td>Short Essay Question 2</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hall &amp; Feldmeier: chs. 11–12.4 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 4 Quiz 3</td>
<td>75 45</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hall &amp; Feldmeier: chs. 12.5–13 1 presentation</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>220</td>
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</table>

**Total: 1010**

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.