

## Course Description

### Chemerinsky on Constitutional Law - The Structure of Government

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Credits 2

Contact hours 0

Independent work hours 76

Year 2

Format of studying blended learning

The course "Chemerinsky on Constitutional Law - The Structure of Government" is taught on educational online platform "Coursera.org". The course is taught in the 1-2 modules on the 2nd year of study.

#### About this course

This course will highlight the construction and interpretation of the U.S. Constitution through the centuries. You'll learn the history behind the Constitution, cases that formed important precedent, and how changes in interpretation have been dependent on shifts in cultural and political climate as well as the composition of the Supreme Court.

We'll start with an overview of the Constitution where we'll consider questions such as "Why the Constitution?" and "What function does the Constitution serve?" Next we'll examine how the Constitution and its subsequent interpretation established the powers of the federal, legislative, and judicial branches of government and allocated powers to the states.

Join me as we look at the questions both raised and answered by the Constitution and those that interpret it!

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe how the structure of the United States government has been shaped by both the text of the Constitution and by subsequent interpretation and practice of political actors in all branches of government
- Illustrate compromises found in the Constitution by citing examples and historic background
- Articulate the importance of key cases such as *Marbury v. Madison*, *McCullough v. Maryland*, and *Lochner v. New York*
- Explain how the outcome of cases is often dependent upon the current cultural and political climate as well as the composition of the court by citing particular cases and important shifts in the court's jurisprudence - Assess the relative suitability of various approaches to constitutional interpretation and analysis

#### Course contents

Lecture 1 - Why the Constitution?

Lecture 2 - The Federal Judicial Power

Lecture 3 - The Federal Legislative Power

Lecture 4 - The Federal Executive Power

### Forms of control

The grade for this course (G<sub>final</sub>) is made up of the grade for the online-course (G<sub>onlinecourse</sub>) and final exam (G<sub>exam</sub>).

The formula for calculating the final grade is the following:

$$G_{\text{final}} = 0,8 \cdot G_{\text{online-course}} + 0,2 \cdot G_{\text{exam}}.$$

### Basic resources

Discipline studies are carried out by students independently on the basis of an online course “Chemerinsky on Constitutional Law - The Structure of Government”

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/chemerinsky-on-constitutional-law-structure-of-government>.

### Software

№	Name	Access conditions
1.	Microsoft Windows 7 Professional RUS	From the university's internal network (contract)
2.	Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010	From the university's internal network (contract)

### Professional databases, information reference systems, Internet resources (electronic educational resources)

№	Name	Access conditions
	Internet resources (electronic educational resources)	
1.	Coursera	URL: <a href="https://www.coursera.org/">https://www.coursera.org/</a>

### Technical Support for the Course

The classrooms for self-study in the discipline are equipped with personal computers with the ability to connect to the Internet and access to the electronic information and educational environment of the HSE.