

**Constitutional Law I**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Professor Fenton**

LAW 017D  
Room F 109  
4 Credits

Mon., Tue., Thur.,  
11-12:20am

Course Materials

The required text for this course is Stone, Seidman, Sunstein, Tushnet, and Karlan, *Constitutional Law* (7<sup>th</sup> ed. 2013). Additional required readings are available on my website: <http://faculty.law.miami.edu/zfenton/>.

Assignments

A weekly schedule for the semester is attached. There is some space to accommodate variations in pace; I nonetheless will try to maintain the schedule as much as possible. I also reserve the right to revise the assignments. The objective of the syllabus is to provide consistency in the coverage of themes. You are responsible for all cases and materials assigned, including all handouts, regardless of whether each part of that assignment is specifically covered in class. I advise you to read the cases in the order provided on the assignments list for greater understanding.

Prior to the first week, you should read and compare the Iroquois Constitution (circa 1450-1500 AD) (**handout**) and the Constitution of the United States (1787) (**handout**), both of which are available at <http://faculty.law.miami.edu/zfenton/con-law-i-handouts.html>.

Class Participation

Class participation will be structured around a panel system. Approximately 3-4 students per class will be called on **randomly** in each class. Passing is not permitted without prior consent from me. If you are unprepared when called upon and have not obtained the required sanction, you will be regarded as absent for that day.

All students are expected to be prepared to field questions, especially those concerning basic doctrine and "black letter" applications. In addition, students should focus on understanding the broader theoretical implications and policy issues underlying the "black letter" applications. You should expect to be called on more than once during the semester.

Class attendance and class participation are mandatory. You should view class participation as an important part of your learning experience. Class is your opportunity to experiment with the materials before you are evaluated on them. Volunteered answers in class are always welcome.

If you miss class for any reason, you must discuss your absence with me. *You must not miss more than **four** classes for any reason.* Barring extenuating circumstances, refusal to comport with these requirements may be harmful to your final grade. In extreme cases, you may be removed from the course. I retain the option of lowering your grade by as much as a half grade (no more) for poor class attendance or participation. I also have the option of raising your grade by as much as a half grade (no more) for excellent participation.

### Religious Holy Days

The University of Miami, although a secular institution, is determined to accommodate those students who wish to observe religious holy days. Classes missed due to observances of religious holy days will count as excused absences only if you provide written notice of your intended absence(s) to me no later than the end of the *first three meetings* of our class.

### Use of Personal Technology in the Classroom

You are best served during class period if you focus on class discussions and lectures. Furthermore, the classroom environment must support learning for all students; technological devices may be distracting to individuals in the class and thus undermine that goal. Accordingly, in addition to other professional conduct and the corresponding courtesies, please refrain from text messaging; instant messaging; e-mail use; use of cell phones (disable them in class); or any other communication devices. Also refrain from displaying wallpaper, screen savers, or other material on your laptop screen reasonably expected to offend or distract your classmates. It should be understood that games (electronic or otherwise) are inappropriate for the classroom. I will sanction any student who interferes with the general learning environment in the class. Such sanctions may include, but are not limited to, the loss of the privilege to use a laptop in my class, individually or *collectively*.

### Class Conduct

I will start class on time every day. You are expected to be in your seats at this time. I advise you to visit the facilities prior to class. You should avoid leaving class while it is in session so as not to disrupt class.

Examinations and Grades There will be a final examination at the end of the course. It will be composed substantially (if not exclusively) of essay questions.

### Accommodations

If you have a disability, or suspect that you may have a disability, the Law School encourages you to contact Jessie Howell, Coordinator, Disability Services at the Office of Disability Services for information about available opportunities, resources, and services. Her phone number is 305-284-9907, and her email address is [jhowell@law.miami.edu](mailto:jhowell@law.miami.edu). You may also visit the Disability Services website at [www.law.miami.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.law.miami.edu/disabilityservices) <<http://www.law.miami.edu/disabilityservices>.

### Office Hours

By appointment.

Appointment requests may be made directly with me by e-mail.

You are encouraged to ask basic questions via e-mail; more involved questions are better discussed in person.

### Contact Information

Rm: G374.

E-Mail: [zfenton@law.miami.edu](mailto:zfenton@law.miami.edu)

Homepage: <http://faculty.law.miami.edu/zfenton/>