
U.S. CONSTITUTION eCOURSE SYLLABUS

Glendale Community College | Fall 2009 | POS 222 Sections 15600 and 15602

Contact information

Instructor: Toni McClory
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Email: toni.mcclory@gcmail.maricopa.edu (*Important!* Please put POS 222 in the subject line to avoid the District's spam checker & assure that your email gets prompt attention)
Office: 05-135 (same building as the campus bookstore)
Office hours: MW 11:00–12:00; TuTh 8:30-10:00 & other times by appointment
Class meets: <https://ecourses.maricopa.edu/webapps/login/>

Required textbooks (no purchase necessary!)

- U.S. Constitution Factsheets (download for free in BlackBoard or you can purchase a packet for copy cost from the GCC Copy Center—next to the bookstore.)
- McClory, ed. *At the Schoolhouse Gate: Student Rights Cases* (2007 ed.) (download for free in BlackBoard or you can purchase it for copy cost from the GCC Copy Center—next to the bookstore.)

About the course

There are many good reasons to study the U.S. Constitution: The Constitution is the backbone of American government. It is the primary source of our rights and freedoms. And it is a document of immense historic importance. This course will examine: (1) the Constitution's origins and underlying philosophy; (2) how the Constitution defines and restricts the power of the national government; and (3) how the Constitution protects individual rights and liberties. There will be special emphasis on constitutional issues that arise in educational contexts. There are no prerequisites.

Official course description:

<http://www.dist.maricopa.edu/cgi-bin/cpr.pl?trm=20036&crs=pos222&inst=99>

Class policies

- This 10-week class moves very quickly. Expect to spend roughly 6 hours per week on this course.
- Late work will be accepted with a 15% grade deduction. Unless there are very special circumstances, **late work must be submitted within 1 week of the due date.**
- **Your own words please!** All written work must be in your own words and syntax unless you are quoting and properly credit the source. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and the college penalties are severe. (See MCCC Policy 2.3.11.) There are no joint projects in this course.

How Students Can Avoid Plagiarism:

http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/English/plagiarism_studentresources.html

- Please keep a copy of all your work until the end of the course as insurance against loss by you or me.

- Let me know if you have any special needs that require accommodation and please make the appropriate arrangements with the College’s Disability Services Office (623) 845-3080.
- Please consult the GCC College Handbook and the MCCC Student Guide to learn more about your rights and responsibilities as a student at GCC.

College Handbook:

http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/catalog/student_rights.html

MCCC Student Guide:

<http://www.maricopa.edu/legal/student/>

Grading

The course grade will be based on the following point system:

Assignments	Points
8 Discussion contributions The discussion is an important part of this course. It is intended to simulate and improve upon the traditional class experience. I’m expecting you to put some time and effort into this activity. <i>Please don’t post until you have completed most of the assigned weekly readings and have read what your classmates have said.</i> Feel free to respond to your classmates’ comments as often as you wish to make this a true discussion. Full credit (5 points) will be awarded for a post that does all or most of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ demonstrates that you have read the assigned materials; ○ draws upon your own background or experience; ○ reacts to posts of others; ○ raises no questions or issues (5 points per discussion with deductions for insubstantial and/or untimely posts)	40
8 Unit quizzes (points vary)	75
Paper*	40
Final exam*	50
Total points	215
*Required to pass the course	

A = 193 points or higher; B = 172—192 points; C = 142–171 points; D = 129–141 points; F = below 129 points. Strong participation in class discussions will be considered in borderline cases.

Extra credit

Up to 20 extra credit points can be earned by completing additional assignments that are posted in BlackBoard (Go to Extra Credit Tab). These credits can be used to offset low grades or late penalties. They cannot be used as substitutes for the required paper or final exam.