SYLLABUS – U.S. Constitution

POS 222 U.S. Constitution, Spring 2005
Class Meets: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3/1-5/5, 1:00-2:15 p.m.
Class Location: Glendale Community College, HTA-6

Instructor: Therese Desai
Email: tdesai@student.gc.maricopa.edu
Voicemail: (480) 731-8866, mailbox number 14174. If necessary, you may also leave messages with Brigida Banfelder at 623-845-3685.
Office Hours: After class or by appointment.

Required Textbooks:
- Toni McClory, At the Schoolhouse Gate: Student Rights Cases (2003) (Available at the Copy Center or the College Book Center, only.)

Course Description:
Examination of the United States Constitution. Equivalent to the first part of POS 220. May not enroll in POS 220 and POS 222 concurrently. Prerequisites: None. POS 222 is awarded Elective (E) credit and meets U.S. Constitution requirements for teacher certification.

Course Objective
The United States Constitution is the world’s oldest written constitution. Its continuing impact and relevance to both the day-to-day lives of our citizens as well as all of the peoples of the world cannot be underestimated. This class seeks to educate students concerning the historical underpinnings of the Constitution; the governmental structure set out in the Constitution; and the Constitution’s continuing role in protecting individual rights against the government. An understanding of this history and these principles enables meaningful political participation by the nation’s citizens.

Attendance
Since a large part of the curriculum will be presented in lecture format on material not covered in the reading, attendance at class is essential to accomplish the course objectives and failure to attend can adversely affect your grade. Absences that are cleared by me in advance, including those for religious holidays, as well as absences for good cause explained to me afterwards will be considered “excused absences.” 3 or more unexcused absences may lead to instructor-initiated withdrawal.
Grading
The final course grade will be determined based on the following point system:

- 1 Take Home Assignment: 100 points
- 1 Rights Paper 100 points
- Final exam: 100 points
- Total Points 300 points

The grading scale is as follows: A = (270 or higher); B = (240-269); C = (210-239); D = (180-209); F = below 180.

Late work will be accepted up to one week past the original due date. However, absent extenuating circumstances, there will be a 10% reduction for each late assignment.

Rights Paper
This paper will deal with issues discussed in Unit Two. More information about this paper will be distributed at a later date.

Extra Credit
Students may earn extra credit for completion of project(s) to be distributed later in the semester. It will be possible for students to earn a total of 30 extra-credit points. In addition, strong classroom participation will also be recognized.

Classroom Policies
- All assignments, papers, exams and extra-credit projects are to be the exclusive work product of the individual student. There are no group projects in this class. Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) will not be tolerated and will be resolved under the procedures established in the Glendale Community College Student Handbook.
- Taping is not permitted without my prior permission.
- If you have a disability which may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please notify the Disability Services and Resources Office. If you have a disability which may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please notify the Disability Services and Resources Office, located in TDS 100. Their phone number is 623-845-3080.
- Please keep a copy of all of your work until you have received your final grade.
- Course content and scheduling may vary from this outline to meet the needs of the particular group.
Class Schedule and Assignments

I. Unit One – The Founding and Institutions of Government

Tuesday 3/1 Introduction

Thursday 3/3 Constitutional Origins and the Articles of Confederation
Declaration of Independence (handout)
The Origin of the Constitution (handout) & Articles of Confederation

Tuesday 3/8 The Founding and the Ratification Debate
Monk, Pages 10-17; 121-126

Thursday 3/10 Core Principles of the Constitution
Monk, Pages 24-25; 90-92; 126; 194-198

3/14-3/18 Spring Break

Tuesday 3/22 Congress
Monk, Pages 18-61

Thursday 3/24 The Presidency and the Electoral College
Monk, Pages 62-77; 201-204; 242-245; 249-250; 255-259

Tuesday 3/29 Presidential Power
Monk, Pages 53-55; Pages 77-88

Thursday 3/31 The Judiciary
Monk, 89-103

II. Unit Two – The Bill of Rights

Tuesday 4/5 Introduction – State Action Requirement; Incorporation
*Take-home Assignment Due*

Thursday 4/7 Establishment Clause (First Amendment)
Monk, Pages 127-133
McClory, Pages 1-10 (Lee v. Weisman, Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe)

Tuesday 4/12 Free Exercise Clause (First Amendment)
Monk, Pages 134-136
McClory, Pages 13-15
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Author(s) and Pages/References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 4/14</td>
<td>Free Speech Clause (First Amendment) - History and Limits</td>
<td>Monk, 137-150</td>
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<td>Thursday 4/21</td>
<td>Fourth Amendment (Introduction and Overview)</td>
<td>Monk, Pages 157-163</td>
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<td>Tuesday 4/26</td>
<td>Fourth Amendment: School Cases</td>
<td>McClory, Pages 33-41 (New Jersey v. T.L.O.; Board of Education v. Earls)</td>
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<td>Thursday 4/28</td>
<td>Due Process Clause (Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments)</td>
<td>Monk, 170-171, 212-219</td>
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<td>McClory, Pages 43-48 (Goss v. Lopez)</td>
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<td><em>Rights Paper Due</em></td>
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<td>Tuesday 5/3</td>
<td>Equal Protection Clause (Fourteenth Amendment)</td>
<td>Monk, Pages 219-226</td>
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<td>McClory, Pages 49-52 (Brown v. Board of Education)</td>
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<td>Thursday 5/5</td>
<td>Equal Protection Clause (Fourteenth Amendment)</td>
<td>McClory, Pages 53-65 (United States v. Virginia)</td>
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<td>Thursday 5/12</td>
<td>Final Exam 1:00-2:50 p.m.</td>
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