Constitutional Democracy (CNST_DEM)

CNST_DEM 2150: The American Civil War: A Global History
(same as HIST 2150). In this class students will study the American Civil War from the perspective of global history. The familiar actors and events will be covered - the debate over slavery, the secession of the South, the rise of Abraham Lincoln, the great battles and generals, etc. But these familiar episodes will take on different meanings when viewed in relation to global structures of politics, economics, social relations, and ideology. The 1860s was at once a formative moment in the history of globalization and the key decade for the formation and consolidation of modern nations.

Credit Hours: 3

CNST_DEM 2425: Race and the American Story
(same as BL_STU 2425, POL.SC 2425). This course represents a collaboration between the University of Missouri’s Department of Black Studies and the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy. Building upon the existing Citizenship@Mizzou program, the course aims to carry forward the goals of the Citizenship program and to further solidify and magnify its impact on campus. In so doing, the course will also serve as a model for improving diversity education on campuses across the country and contribute to a more informed and unified national culture. The core syllabus will consist in readings that tell the story of the confrontation between American political principles and the practice of racial injustice throughout our history. Students will read and discuss the Declaration of Independence, the slavery clauses in the Constitution, the poetry of Phillis Wheatley, and the speeches of Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr., among others. They will achieve a greater understanding of how diversity relates to humanity, and will learn to dialogue productively and civilly with others who may not share their background or opinions.

Credit Hour: 1

CNST_DEM 2445: American Constitutional Democracy
(same as POL.SC 2445, HIST 2445). This course offers an introduction to American constitutional democracy. On the one hand, this course will strive to set the development of America’s constitutional democracy into its historical context and to explain it in relation to larger social, political, military, and economic events. A second emphasis is on the nature and character of the American democratic system. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3

CNST_DEM 4900: Beltway History and Politics: American Constitutional Democracy in Theory and Practice
(same as HIST 4900, POL.SC 4900). This course is an experiential overview of American political history for students participating in the Kinder Forum’s Washington internship program, showing how American constitutional democracy was developed and implemented right here on the Potomac, as much as possible in the actual places where the events occurred. Emphasis will be placed on the interplay between constitutional theory and actual political experience over time, and the tensions and institutional changes that emerged as Americans and their government coped with cataclysmic social changes, unparalleled economic development, and fearsome international challenges.

Credit Hours: 3

CNST_DEM 4975: Journal on Constitutional Democracy
(same as HIST 4975, POL.SC 4975). The Journal is sponsored by the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy and staffed by current and former participants in the Institute’s undergraduate Society of Fellows program. Each volume of the Journal is organized around a student-selected idea or era central to the historical development and philosophical foundations of constitutional democracy in the United States. Student-authored essays address this theme via arguments and historical overviews crafted from the close reading and analysis of primary source documents, with the exception being that participating in the Journal will relate back to and advance students’ study of American political thought and history.

Credit Hour: 1-3