Constitutional Democracy (CNST_DEM)

Credit Hours: 3

CNST_DEM 2004: Topics in Constitutional Democracy - Social Science
Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit may vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit with departmental consent. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hour: 1-6

CNST_DEM 2100: The Revolutionary Transformation of Early America (same as HIST 2100). In the broadest of terms, this is a course on origins. On one hand, we will devote significant class time to discussing "the causes which impelled" the colonies to throw off the yoke of British rule. We will examine this on both a practical and a more abstract level, focusing first on writings that delineate why colonists grew to perceive the economic, social, and political conditions of British rule as insufferable, and then on how they translated these practical concerns into a more ideological justification of violent revolution.
Credit Hours: 3

CNST_DEM 2100H: The Revolutionary Transformation of Early America - Honors (same as HIST 2100H). In the broadest of terms, this is a course on origins. On one hand, we will devote significant class time to discussing "the causes which impelled" the colonies to throw off the yoke of British rule. We will examine this on both a practical and a more abstract level, focusing first on writings that delineate why colonists grew to perceive the economic, social, and political conditions of British rule as insufferable, and then on how they translated these practical concerns into a more ideological justification of violent revolution.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

CNST_DEM 2120H: The Young Republic - Honors (same as HIST 2120H). This course examines the early years of the United States under the (then) new Constitution, an important historical period with which present-day Americans are increasingly unfamiliar. Our focus will be on abandoning our preconceptions about the nation's early history and thoroughly understanding the choices that were posed and made in the years after 1789 and that would determine what type of nation the U.S. would become.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

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 Hours: 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 2450H: The Intellectual World of the American Founders - Honors (same as POL_SC 2450H). This course demonstrates that truly understanding the American constitutional and democratic traditions begins with acknowledging and studying how, in framing the Constitution and in imagining the new nation, the Founders drew on the work and cobbled together the ideas of thinkers from multiple eras and continents.
and, moreover, thinkers of vastly different political ideologies and disciplinary expertise.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

CNST_DEM 2455H: Constitutional Debates - Honors
(same as POL_SC 2455H). While we will make reference to the work of canonical political thinkers from the Western tradition during the semester--and while we will also, at times, take a broadly philosophical approach to describing certain of the Founders' theses on governance--this is not a course in "high theory". Instead, our examination of the process of drafting and ratifying the United States Constitution will be more pragmatic in nature, focusing on the practical problems and questions concerning national governance that shaped the final design of the Constitution. At the same time, this description of the class as one that addresses the Constitution in terms of the practical problems that the Founders saw it solving drastically understates the complexity and contentiousness of the subject matter that we will be examining. Specifically, the readings for the course will allow us to identify the ways in which, and reasons for which, the Founders disagreed not only on how to solve the problems of governance that the nation faced in 1787 but, moreover, on what these problems actually were. With regard to this task of understanding the principles underlying the heated debates that arose during the drafting and ratification process, it should be noted that this is not a class in Framer-worship. While we will discuss why the Federalists ultimately "won the day," we will also devote significant attention to how the Anti-Federalists both profoundly influenced how we understand constitutional democracy in the United States and provided an intellectual lineage that still informs contemporary political debate. We will, that is, give each side their due. In addition, we will conclude the semester by considering the Constitution's post-ratification history, looking at a handful of Supreme Court decisions and constitutional amendments in order to think about some of the questions that the 1787 Constitution left unanswered and some of the problems that it left un-solved.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required; POL_SC 1100

CNST_DEM 2800: Liberty, Justice and the Common Good
(same as POL_SC 2800). Selected great political theorists and their contemporary relevance. How to think critically about political ideas and ideologies.

Credit Hours: 3

CNST_DEM 3220: U.S. Women’s Political History, 1880-Present
(same as HIST 3220, WGST 3220). This course explores American women's engagement with American politics (broadly defined) over the course of the twentieth century. It addresses issues of political identity, organization, ideology, and division.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing

CNST_DEM 4000: Age of Jefferson
(same as HIST 4000). Political, constitutional, cultural, and economic developments in United States during formative period of Republic, 1787-1828. Special attention to Constitutional Convention, formation of national political institutions.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: POL_SC 1100

CNST_DEM 4080: American Foreign Policy from Colonial Times to 1898
(same as HIST 4080, PEA_ST 4080). This class probes the entwined development of the U.S. nation and empire, to the backdrop of accelerating structures of global economic integration, technological innovation, and the hardening of national, racial, and ideological formations.

Credit Hours: 3

CNST_DEM 4100: American Cultural and Intellectual History to 1865
(same as HIST 4100). Origins and growth of American values and ideas considered in their social context. Topics include: the work ethic, republican politics, revivalism, reform movements, sexual attitudes, literature in the marketplace, Afro-American and slave-holding subcultures.

Credit Hours: 3

CNST_DEM 4130: African-American Politics
(same as POL_SC 4130, BL_STU 4130). Surveys political participation of African-Americans in American politics. Analyzes their public lives in the context of elections, behavior of political organizations, social movements, parties, and level of government.

Credit Hours: 3

CNST_DEM 4140: Congress and Legislative Policy
(same as POL_SC 4140). Study of national and state legislative systems and legislative policy making, with emphasis on Congress.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: POL_SC 1100

CNST_DEM 4150: The American Presidency
(same as POL_SC 4150). Evolution of the presidency; particular emphasis on constitutional and political roles played by chief executive in shaping public policy.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: POL_SC 1100

CNST_DEM 4170: Politics of the American South
(same as POL_SC 4170). This course focuses on the politics of the American South in the latter part of the 20th century and the early years of the current millennium. For undergraduate credit only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: POL_SC 1100

CNST_DEM 4200: The American Constitution
(same as POL_SC 4200). Leading American constitutional principles as they have evolved through important decisions of the United States Supreme Court.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: POL_SC 1100
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