# COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course Title:** The Constitution and American Society  

**Department:** Social Sciences  

**Curriculum:** History  

**Course Code:** HIS*225  

**Course Type:** L  

**Prerequisites:**  
- C- or better in Integrated Reading and Writing II (ENG*075) OR Introduction to College Reading & Writing (ENG*093) OR Introduction to College English (ENG*096) OR Reading & Writing VI (ESL*162), or placement into Composition (ENG*101) 

**Elective Type:** G/HI/HU/LAS  

**Credit Hours:** 3  

**Corequisites:** None  

**Contact Hours:**  
- Lecture: 3  
- Lab: 0  
- Studio: 0  
- Other: 0  
- TOTAL: 3  

**Class Maximum:** 35  

**Semesters Offered:** F/S/Su  

**Catalog Course Description:** Examines both the historical foundation of the U.S. Constitution and its current implementation. Provides students with an opportunity to understand and discuss some of the major Supreme Court decisions in American history and their impact on American society.  

**Topical Outline:**  

1. Historical and Philosophical Foundations  
   a. The Examples of Greece and Rome  
   b. The British Constitutional Model  
   c. The American Revolution and the Founding Fathers  
   d. Decision in Philadelphia—the Constitutional Convention  

2. Evolution of the Constitution  
   a. The Ratification of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights  
   b. The Early National Period and the Rise of the Supreme Court  
   c. The Constitution and War (from the Civil War to the Cold War)  
   d. From Individual Liberty to Group Equality—The Turning Point of the Fifties and Sixties
### Outcomes:

Describe measurable skills or knowledge that students should be able to demonstrate as evidence that they have mastered the course content.

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<th>3. The Constitution Today</th>
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<tr>
<td>a. Strict Constructionism or A Living Breathing Document?</td>
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<td>b. Culture Wars and the Constitution</td>
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<td>c. The War on Terrorism and the Constitution</td>
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Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

**COURSE:**
1. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and its amendments.
2. Relate the history and philosophy of the Constitution to present day constitutional and social issues.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of America's political culture through a basic knowledge of the Constitution.
4. Examine historical processes (social, cultural, economic, political, and intellectual) that have contributed to the emergence of contemporary society in the United States.
5. Utilize critical thinking skills such as the ability to analyze primary documents as part of assignments.

**PROGRAM:** *(Numbering reflects Program Outcomes as they appear in the college catalog)*

**COMPETENCIES FULFILLED:**

**Critical Analysis/ Logical Thinking** - Students will be able to organize, interpret, and evaluate evidence and ideas within and across disciplines; draw reasoned inferences and defensible conclusions; and solve problems and make decisions based on analytical processes.

- **Demonstrates:** Identifies the issue(s); formulates an argument; explains and analyzes relationships clearly; draws reasonable inferences and conclusions that are logical and defensible; provides support by evaluating credible sources of evidence necessary to justify conclusions.

- **Does Not Demonstrate:** Identifies few or no issues; formulates an argument without significant focus; provides an unclear explanation of analysis and relationships; drawing few reasonable inferences and conclusions that are illogical and indefensible; provides little to no support using credible sources of evidence necessary to justify conclusions.

**Written Communication (embedded)** - Students will be prepared to develop written texts of varying lengths and styles that communicate effectively and appropriately across a variety of settings.

- **Demonstrates:** Writes articulate texts using appropriate evidence and appeals as determined by the rhetorical situation.

- **Does Not Demonstrate:** Writes texts lacking appropriate evidence and appeals as determined by the rhetorical situation.

**Evaluation:**

List how the above outcomes will be assessed.

- Assessment will be based on the following criteria:
  - Exams and written assignments

**Instructional Resources:**

List library (e.g. books, journals, on-line resources), technological (e.g. Smartboard, software), and other resources (e.g. equipment, supplies, facilities) required and desired to teach this course.

- **Required:** None
- **Desired:** None

**Textbook(s)**

Refer to current academic year printout.