

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

<b>COURSE PREFIX/NUMBER:</b>	CRJ 120
<b>COURSE TITLE:</b>	Constitutional Law
<b>LECTURE HOURS/WEEK:</b>	3.0
<b>LAB HOURS/WEEK:</b>	0.0
<b>CREDIT HOURS:</b>	3.0

[Distance Learning Attendance/VA Statement](#)  
[Textbook Information](#)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course includes an analysis of the historical development of the U.S. Constitution and the relationship of rights contained therein to the State and the individual. The application of the Bill of Rights to federal and state systems is examined.

## **COURSE COMPETENCIES**

### **Module 1: A FOUNDATION FOR UNDERSTANDING CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**

1. Discuss the historical overview of the Constitution
2. Assess the needs of a pluralistic society
3. Explain the influence of the Magna Carta and the Articles of Confederation
4. Describe consensus and conflict theories
5. Differentiate between civil and criminal law
6. Describe the powers held by the Supreme Court of the United States
7. Critique the decision in Marbury v. Madison

### **Module 2: THE GUARANTEES OF THE CONSTITUTION TO CITIZENS: CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.**

1. Describe applying equal protection under the law: Balancing individual, state and federal rights.
2. Discuss the roots of racial discrimination in our nation's history
3. Critique the implications of historical cases: Dred Scott, Plessy v. Ferguson and Brown v. Board of Education Topeka
4. Identify the basic freedoms in the First Amendment
5. Discuss freedom of speech and religion for prison inmates
6. Explain the origin of the militia and the Second Amendment
7. Argue sides of the gun control debate in America

### **Module 3: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS INFLUENCING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

1. Discuss the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches and seizures
2. Explain the concept of "probable cause"
3. Critique the evolution of the Exclusionary Rule
4. Describe the importance of the Weeks, Mapp, and Terry decisions
5. Identify elements of constitutional searches and seizures
6. Discuss constitutional exceptions to warrant requirements
7. Explain the use of informants

8. Describe the Fifth Amendment: Due Process and Obtaining Information Legally
9. Describe the Sixth Amendment: Right to Counsel and a Fair Trial
10. Describe the Eighth Amendment: Bail, Fines, and Punishment

## **MINIMAL STANDARDS**

CRJ 120 is designed for completion in one semester. A final grade of “C” must be earned for successful completion of this course. Failure to earn a letter grade of “C” would mean that competencies for the course have not been adequately met. Therefore, students earning a final grade lower than “C” must repeat the course to meet program requirements.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Attendance**

Students are responsible for attending all scheduled class meetings until they have completed all course assignments made in all classes. Students who are absent from a class more than 20% of the hours assigned will be withdrawn.

### **Withdrawal from a Course**

A student may withdraw from a course until midterm with a grade of “W.” To withdraw from a course, the student obtains a Request for Withdrawal from the instructor or from Student Services. To withdraw after midterm and receive a grade of “W,” the student must personally see the instructor for approval. All other students will receive a grade of “WF.”

The instructor may initiate a withdrawal from class if student:

- has not been in contact with the instructor within the first two (2) weeks of the term
- has not submitted assignments as specified
- has not completed assignments in proctored setting as specified
- has been absent from class more than 20 percent of the hours assigned

### **Policy on Academic Dishonesty**

The policies stated in the York Technical College Catalog and Handbook will be enforced. Any student involved in cheating or any other form of academic dishonesty will be given a grade of zero and will be subject to further disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes using another’s work or words without giving proper credit to the source, cheating on tests and other assignments.

## **EVALUATION STRATEGIES/GRADING**

The final course grade will be determined by a student’s performance in the three modules and on the written component or project. Each module grade may be comprised of objective and/or subjective exams, written assignments, and group or individual participation as required by the instructor. The weighted ranks are listed below:

- Module 1: Exam, Assignments and/or Participation 25%
- Module 2: Exam, Assignments and/or Participation 25%
- Module 3: Exam, Assignments and/or Participation 35%
- Written Component, Presentation, or Project: 15%

**Grading Scale**

A 90 - 100

B 80 - 89

C 70 - 79

D 60 - 69

F Below 60

**ENTRY LEVEL SKILLS:** Not Applicable

**PREREQUISITIES:** RDG 100 and ENG 100 or equivalent test scores

**CO-REQUISITIES:** None

**DISABILITIES STATEMENT:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Special Resources Offices (SR) at 803-327-8007 in the 300 area of Student Services. The SRO coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Effective: SU2009