

Constitutional Law I (#150)
Professor Julia L. Ernst
First Class Reading Assignment

Welcome to Constitutional Law I! As we watch the challenges to the U.S. Constitution and the democratic process unfold on the national stage, the importance of understanding constitutional law has taken on an even greater significance during these challenging times. I look forward to studying this foundational document together with you throughout the coming months.

In preparation for our first class, please read the entire **Syllabus**, which you will be able to find on Blackboard.

Please also read the following pages in our casebook, *Constitutional Law* by Kathleen M. Sullivan and Noah Feldman (Foundation Press, 2019, 20th edition):

- *Constitutional Law*, pp. v-xiv (Preface, Summary of Contents, and Table of Contents through Ch. 6)

In addition, please read the following article on the Internet:

- *The Constitution of the United States: A History*, at <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/more-perfect-union>

When reading this article, please think about the following questions:

1. Why did the revolutionaries distrust a strong central government when initially adopting the Articles of Confederation?
 2. Why did the states find it necessary to adopt a new Constitution in 1787?
 3. What are some important issues that were not addressed by the original Constitution?
- Finally, please read the Constitutional Law section of the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) Subject Matter Outline: <http://www.ncbex.org/pdfviewer/?file=%2Fdmsdocument%2F226>.

I will be taking attendance before class starts, so please arrive early each day and be ready to go at the start of each class period. You can find the Zoom link on the Constitutional Law I Blackboard site under “Con Law Syllabus & Zoom Link.”

For those of you attending remotely **via Zoom**, please log into the Zoom classroom early each class period to ensure your technology is working and to be counted as present and on time. Please ensure that your **camera is turned on** so my teaching assistant and I can see you throughout the class period. If you must step away during class, please send a private chat message beforehand to my teaching assistant (who will be monitoring the class throughout each session).

For those of you attending **in person**, please arrive early so you can settle into your seat, log onto the Zoom classroom on your laptop, and be ready to go at the start of class (and so you do not disrupt the class by arriving late). Be sure to wear your mask at all times, sit at one of the green dots, and bring your laptop computer, so you can log into Zoom to participate in the Zoom polls. You will not need your earphones in the classroom, as we will be using the classroom speakers and microphones. Please keep your **camera turned off**, as my teaching assistant and I will be able to see you in the classroom and through the classroom Zoom video.

Happy reading, and I look forward to seeing you during our first class!