

**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**  
**Syllabus – Spring 2014**  
**Professor D. Theodore Rave**

**Class Hours:** Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3:50pm, room TBD.

**Office Hours:** Mondays after class, from 4-6pm. I am always happy to talk with students, so if that time is not convenient for you please feel free to email me to set up an appointment. My office is 126 BLB. My email address is [dtrave@central.uh.edu](mailto:dtrave@central.uh.edu). My assistant is Charlette Jefferson.

**Required Casebook:** SULLIVAN & FELDMAN, CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (18th ed. 2013) and the 2013 SUPPLEMENT, thereto. I will also post required reading materials on the Blackboard website from time to time.

**Supplemental Resources:** You may find the following texts helpful throughout the course (and your careers) in understanding some of the issues in Constitutional Law. But except for excerpts that I assign and post on Blackboard, you are not responsible for these readings for the purposes of the exam. Please note that the Supreme Court has been changing the landscape of constitutional law in a variety of areas central to this course for a number of years. There have been new and important decisions since the publication of these secondary sources. I will update the casebook in class or with handouts, but I will not update the secondary sources. For this reason, it is dangerous to rely on secondary source (those listed below or others) as stating what the law “is.”

- ERWIN CHEMERINSKY, CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES (4th ed. 2011)
- JOHN E. NOWAK & RONALD D. ROTUNDA, CONSTITUTIONAL LAW HORNBOOK (8th ed. 2009)

**Exam:** Your grade will be based primarily on a take-home final exam. The test will be open book. All answers must be exclusively your own work. You may not consult with others about the exam once the exam period has started. Please review the Honor Code and Plagiarism Policy.

**Class Participation:** Participation in class discussion is necessary both for your own understanding of the material and for the benefit of your classmates. I expect you to be prepared for every class. If, for any reason, you are not prepared for a class I ask that you let me know in advance (either by email or by leaving a note on the lectern in class) and I will not call on you that day. If you are unprepared more than twice during the semester, it will affect your grade. Final grades may be modified up or down by one level (e.g., B+ to A- or A- to B+) based on class participation.

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend all class session. If you fail to attend at least 80% of class meetings you will be in violation of ABA and Law Center policy and may be dropped from the course. I will keep track of attendance by passing around a sign-in

sheet. It is an honor code violation to sign in for another student. Late arrivals may be treated as absences.

**Computer Policy:** Use of laptops or other electronic devices is permitted for class-related purposes only. Violations of this policy will be treated as unpreparedness.

**Sensitive Topics:** More than any other course in the first year of law school, Constitutional Law deals with sensitive topics about which people have strongly held and widely divergent opinions. I find that class discussion is the most productive when students feel free to try out positions with which they (or others) may not agree and to test the assumptions underlying their own (or others') views. For this reason, class discussion is strictly "off the record." Outside of the classroom, you may not attribute any statements made in class to any of your classmates. And any audio or visual recording of class is prohibited. The only exception to this policy is that I will arrange for the law school to record any make-up classes that might become necessary.

**Accommodation:** If you have a disability and require an accommodation, please contact the Center for Students with Disabilities.

**Reading Assignments:** Reading assignments will be announced in class or posted or emailed to all class members. I will provide you with a course outline and reading assignments in installments as the semester goes on.