

Constitutional Law

LGLA 1349.200 COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Kim Hayes Dayton
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CLASSROOM: Online / Blackboard

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an overview of the United States Constitution and its articles, amendments, and judicial interpretations. Topics include separation of powers, checks and balances, governmental structures and processes, and individual rights in relation to government.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course explores the fundamental principles of constitutional law as the foundation for our legal system. Students successfully completing this course will understand the historical development of the U.S. Constitution; be familiar with constitutional issues which may arise in the litigation process in civil cases; be familiar with the application of constitutional principles to criminal cases; know how to research constitutional issues; and understand legal terminology relating to United States Constitution.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: *Constitutional Law – Principles and Practice* (2nd ed.); (Thomson-Delmar); Author: Hames, Joanne.

ATTENDANCE: In-person courses: Students are expected to regularly and timely attend class. Excessive absences (more than 3) may result in the student being dropped from the course without notice. Online courses: Students are expected to “attend” by timely turning in assignments.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: Paralegals are professionals, and as such, must maintain a professional attitude and demeanor. Spirited discussion is encouraged, but respect for the opinion of others is required. All students are expected to be prepared for class. Disruptive or unprofessional behaviors in class are grounds for a student to be removed from the classroom and dropped from the course without notice.

CELL PHONES: Cell phones must be turned off before entering the classroom. The professor reserves the right to answer any cell phone that rings during class time. “Texting” (text messaging) during class is prohibited. Violation of this policy may result in the student being dropped from the course.

COMPUTERS: Laptop computers, iPads, etc., may be used during class for class-related purposes and provided device speakers are muted. Wireless internet access is provided at

SPC for education-related purposes only. Paralegal Studies students also have access to computers in the Paralegal Lab in room RC316J. Lab computers are for course-related work only.

GRADING: One exam will be given during the semester and will count 25% of the final grade. No make-up examinations will be given. Weekly class assignments will count 75% of the final grade. Late class assignments will not be accepted. Grade equivalents: 90 to 100% = A; 80 to 89% = B; 70 to 79% = C; 60 to 69% = D; Below 60% = F.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS: In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

NOTE: See Campus Guidelines posted in classroom. Explanations of the following codes are posted in the classroom.

CONCEALED CAMPUS CARRY: Campus Concealed Carry Statement-Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

COVID: If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscles or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste and smell

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at dedens@southplainscollege.edu or 806-716-2376.

SCANS Competencies: C1, C5, C6, C7, C8, C12, C18, C19

Foundation Skills: F1, F2, F7, F8, F9, F11, F12, F17