

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (CONLW)

CONLW 957: The Constitutional Law of Religion

3 Credits

This course examines current constitutional doctrine concerning religion under the First Amendment to the Constitution. The focus will be on the essential cases and principles of the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the First Amendment. These cases and principles are organized along three thematic lines: (1) the regulation of religious activity (free exercise and neutrality, governmental interests, legislative accommodation), (2) the funding of religious activity (establishment and neutrality, governmental support of religious institutions), and (3) the treatment of religion in government's culture shaping activities (public schools, school curriculum, religious speech). The course ends with a discussion of the definition of "religion" for purposes of federal constitutional law.

CONLW 958: Comparative Constitutional & Public Law

3 Credits

The principal objective of this course is to provide students with a greater understanding of how each nation's body of constitutional law is shaped by history, institutions, and current values. The comparative project, by focusing on narrow differences between similar countries, allows students to move beyond an acceptance of basic premises of constitutional law as "natural" or "inherent." As an important dividend, students will gain basic knowledge of foundational concepts in the legal landscape of other nations, hopefully providing students with a comparative advantage in seeking employment with government offices and private firms whose clients engage in substantial cross-border transactions.

CONLW 963: Constitutional Law II

3 Credits

This course studies the development of equal protection law under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, the state action issue, and the free exercise and establishment clauses of the First Amendment.

CONLW 965: First Amendment - Free Speech

3 Credits

This course examines the history, values and function of free expression, advocacy of illegal action, expression that provokes a hostile audience reaction, defamation, commercial advertising, obscenity, hate speech and pornography, expression in public places, symbolic speech, campaign finance laws, and speech in restricted environments.

CONLW 997: Special Topics

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 21

Special Topics