



**COWLEY COLLEGE
& Area Vocational Technical School**

COURSE PROCEDURE FOR

**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
POL6613 3 Credit Hours**

Student Level:

This course is open to students on the college level in their freshman or sophomore year.

Catalog Description:

POL6613 – CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (3 hrs)

This course examines the history and creation of the United States Constitution and illustrates how the Constitution continues to affect America's current legal procedures. Areas covered in this class include the structure and content of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, freedom of speech, and search and seizure.

Controlling Purpose:

This course examines the history and creation of the United States Constitution and illustrates how the Constitution continues to affect America's current legal procedures. Areas covered in this class include, the structure and content of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, freedom of speech, search and seizure laws, right to counsel, and laws of arrest. Emphasis will be given to how the Constitution currently affects our criminal justice system.

Learner Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to.

1. Understand and discuss the historic context of the Constitution and what issues were faced prior to and with the creation of the Constitution.
2. Discuss each Amendment in the Bill of Rights and explain what effects each Amendment has on our current legal system.
3. Identify the three branches of government established by the constitution and explain the responsibilities of each branch.
4. Identify what constitutes free speech and what speech is not granted protection under the Constitution.
5. Explain what constitutes a lawful arrest.
6. Determine what situations require search warrants or arrest warrants.
7. Explain what situations do not require warrants for lawful searches and arrests.
8. Understand the right to counsel requirements and explain the rationale behind the right to counsel.

Units Outcomes and Criterion Based Evaluation Key for Core Content:

The following defines the minimum core content not including the final examination period. Instructors may add other content as time allows.

Evaluation Key:

- A = All major and minor goals have been achieved and the achievement level is considerably above the minimum required for doing more advanced work in the same field.
- B = All major goals have been achieved, but the student has failed to achieve some of the less important goals. However, the student has progressed to the point where the goals of work at the next level can be easily achieved.
- C = All major goals have been achieved, but many of the minor goals have not been achieved. In this grade range, the minimum level of proficiency represents a person who has achieved the major goals to the minimum amount of preparation necessary for taking more advanced work in the same field, but without any major handicap of inadequacy in his background.
- D = A few of the major goals have been achieved, but the student's achievement is so limited that he is not well prepared to work at a more advanced level in the same field.
- F = Failing, will be computed in GPA and hours attempted.
- N = No instruction or training in this area.

UNIT 1: History and Structure of the United States Constitution						
Outcomes: Upon completion of this unit, the students will be able to describe, identify, and explain the factors that were facing the framers of the Constitution, the rationale behind the Amendments and the effect these Amendments have on today's system.						
A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Discuss the European problems faced by the common citizen.
						Explain the early political problems that developed in Colonial America.
						Describe the political actions that faced the framers of the Constitution.
						Explain each of the Amendments in the Bill of Rights and describe their effect on our current criminal justice system. List the branches of government created by the Constitution and the responsibilities of each branch.
						List criminal due process rights that citizens have received from court rulings.

UNIT 2: Freedom of Speech, Press, and Assembly

Outcomes: Upon completion of this unit, the students will be able to describe, identify, and explain what situations the First Amendment applies to and what its limitations are.

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Identify the different types of speech under case laws.
						Define what is obscenity under current U.S. Supreme Court Decisions .
						Explain the limitations that case law has placed on private speech activities.
						Recognize what constitutes lawful speech activities in public forums.
						List what legal restrictions can be placed on free speech by governments.

UNIT 3: Laws of Arrest

Outcomes: Upon completion of this unit, the students will be able to describe, identify, and explain what determines if an arrest is lawful and constitutional.

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Discuss the historical development of the laws of arrest.
						Identify the legal requirements for making arrests with a warrant and when they can legally be made without a warrant.
						Compare and contrast the arrest powers of the police to that of a private citizen.
						Explain the legal requirements of the use of force to affect an arrest.
						Explain when an officer may enter into private spaces to make an arrest and when law enforcement officers can temporarily detain private citizens.

UNIT 4: Search and Seizure Laws, the 4th Amendment

Outcomes: Upon completion of this unit, the students will be able to describe, identify, and explain what constitutes a search under Constitutional parameters. The student will also be able to explain what determines if the search is lawful or unlawful.

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						List the legal requirements for the issuance of search warrants.
						Identify the types of warrantless searches that the courts have approved.
						Recognize when the exclusionary rule would apply to law enforcement actions.
						Differentiate between lawful and unlawful actions of law enforcement searches.
						Apply search and seizure law to specific case facts to determine the legality of situations encountered in the criminal justice system.

UNIT 5: The Right to Counsel

Outcomes: Upon completion of this unit, the students will be able to describe, identify, and explain a citizen's right to counsel and the requirements that must be met by governmental authorities.

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Determine what constitutes an indigent person.
						Determine when an indigent person has the right to appointed counsel.
						Understand the right to assistance of counsel in non-trial proceedings.
						Explain the requirements for conducting pretrial identification proceedings.
						Discuss what the limitations are on law enforcement when the right to counsel has been requested.
						Determine what constitutes an indigent person.

Projects Required:

The student will be responsible for all course material and reading. The student will be graded on written assignments, exams, quizzes, discussion questions, class participation, and other methods at the discretion of the instructor. Class projects will include unit exams, chapter quizzes, pop quizzes, daily assignments, and written projects pertaining to case laws and Amendments to the Constitution.

Textbook:

Contact Bookstore for current textbook.

Materials/Equipment Required:**Attendance Policy:**

Students should adhere to the attendance policy outlined by the instructor in the course syllabus.

Grading Policy:

The grading policy will be outlined by the instructor in the course syllabus.

Maximum class size:

Based on classroom occupancy

Course Timeframe:

The U.S. Department of Education, Higher Learning Commission and the Kansas Board of Regents define credit hour and have specific regulations that the college must follow when developing, teaching and assessing the educational aspects of the college. A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally-established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester hour of credit or an equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. The number of semester hours of credit allowed for each distance education or blended hybrid courses shall be assigned by the college based on the amount of time needed to achieve the same course outcomes in a purely face-to-face format.

Refer to the following policies:

[402.00 Academic Code of Conduct](#)

[263.00 Student Appeal of Course Grades](#)

[403.00 Student Code of Conduct](#)

Disability Services Program:

Cowley College, in recognition of state and federal laws, will accommodate a student with a documented disability. If a student has a disability, which may impact work in this class which requires accommodations, contact the Disability Services Coordinator.