

# Course Information for Constitutional Law II §§ 1, 3, 5

## Professor Tarkington

### Class Location and Time

Room 114: T & Th at 1:30 to 2:55 p.m.

### Texts

The texts for the course are:

- Stone, Seidman et al., *Constitutional Law* (6<sup>th</sup> ed. 2009)
- Stone, Seidman et al., *2010 Supplement: Constitutional Law*

### Exam

There will be a final examination at the end of the semester. You are allowed to have with you at the exam (1) an outline that **you prepared** that is 4 pages or less (you can use both sides of each page if you would like).

### Grades & Participation

Approximately 95% of your raw score in the class will be based on the final exam. Approximately 5% of your raw score will be based on participation as follows. I will give most, if not all, students 7 out of 14 possible points for participation. However, the participation score may be increased or decreased for student performances that are particularly outstanding or particularly poor. Outstanding performance will be based on quality rather than quantity. I define lack of preparation as the failure to make a good faith effort to read and understand the materials.

### Preparation and Passes

I expect you to read and be prepared every day. Your participation score **will be lowered if you are not prepared or not present** on a day when you are called upon. If you must be absent, you may email me in advance of class and seek an excuse. If your absence is excused by me (and I reserve sole discretion in determining whether an absence will be excused), it will **not** affect your participation score and it will **not** count as one of your two passes described below.

I will give each student 2 passes on preparation, which will allow you to avoid both public humiliation (from being called on when unprepared) and any lowering of the 5% participation portion of your grade. In order to use a pass, you must give me a note with your name and the date on it **before class begins** and before I call on you—I will then refrain from calling on you on that day. You cannot pass me a note or attempt to use a pass once class begins. I will keep track of who has turned in passes and when each student has exhausted their passes. Use of passes will not be considered lack of preparation and will **not** affect the participation portion of your grade.

### Seating

On Thursday, January 20, 2011, I will distribute a blank seating chart for you to fill in. Please sit in your chosen seat thereafter to help me learn your names.

## **Outlines and Outside Sources**

I strongly recommend that you prepare your own outline for Constitutional Law, as well as your other classes. Preparing your own case briefs and outlines will greatly assist you in understanding and digesting the materials covered. If you feel you need additional texts to help you understand and clarify what we cover in class, there are numerous Constitutional Law study aids, hornbooks, and outlines that have been published. You are free to consult such materials if you find them helpful—but they are not required to do well in the class.

## **Office Hours**

I will be in my office for student questions and consultation on Thursdays from 12:20 until 1:20 p.m. and also at other times by appointment. Feel free to email me ([tarkingtonm@law.byu.edu](mailto:tarkingtonm@law.byu.edu)) or call me at home ((812) 932-2344) or on my cell ((812) 717-0344) with any questions or to make an appointment. If you call and I am not there, please leave a message. There is no need to feel intimidated about approaching me or asking me questions—they are encouraged and welcomed.

## **Comments Regarding Class**

Please feel free to email me or talk to me about any concerns, comments or questions you may have about the course. It will NOT negatively affect your grade to do so (the tests are anonymous). However, if you would feel more comfortable sending me an anonymous comment or concern, you can use the following gmail account to send an email to me at my regular account ([tarkingtonm@law.byu.edu](mailto:tarkingtonm@law.byu.edu)).

The anonymous gmail account that you can use is:

Username/account: [narkontark@gmail.com](mailto:narkontark@gmail.com)

Password: 4tarkington

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you have any disability, which may impair your ability to succeed in this course, please contact Associate Dean Oliver for appropriate accommodations.