Overview

For constitutional governments to secure the common good, thoughtful and educated citizens must possess certain virtues; they must understand and be able to implement, defend, and, if need be, reform constitutional institutions. The Constitutional Studies minor seeks to nurture such citizens, thereby contributing to the University’s mission to pursue truth and to nurture a concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice.

Building on courses across the College of Arts and Letters and the Law School, the Constitutional Studies minor is designed to encourage students to confront fundamental questions concerning justice, the rule of law, and human flourishing. From a variety of historical, cultural, disciplinary, and philosophical perspectives, constitutional studies courses ask questions such as:

- What is the proper relationship between government and civil society, between law and moral principles?
- What are the philosophical foundations of human rights and constitutional democracy?
- What principles of justice can or should lie at the foundation of a constitutional republic?
- What are the proper relationships between church and state and religion and politics, and how do these relationships reflect the more basic relationship between faith and reason?
- What are the moral, social, and political conditions necessary to sustain America’s experiment in constitutional government?
- What is the nature of international law and how are international norms created and maintained?

Constitutional Studies minors receive invitations to participate in extracurricular events associated with the Potenziani Program in Constitutional Studies, the Tocqueville Program for Inquiry into Religion and Public Life, and the Law School’s Program in Constitutional Structure.

Constitutional Studies Minor Requirements

The Constitutional Studies minor requires 15 credit hours of class work. Students must complete:

- One of the minor’s two gateway courses: Constitutionalism, Law, and Politics or Constitutionalism, Law, and Politics II: American Constitutionalism (3 credit hours)
- Three elective courses (total of 9 credit hours)
- Capstone experience: Advanced Topics in Contemporary Constitutionalism (3 credit hours) or one additional elective
ELECTIVES:
The four categories focus on the great political and constitutional debates in American and world history and on the underlying principles of constitutional government – natural and civil rights, social contract theory, the market economy, voluntary associations, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and the rule of law.

Classes are grouped by general topic of focus, however students are not limited to just one category.

CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE:
One additional Elective

UPDATED COURSE INFO:
constudies.nd.edu/courses

Constitutionalism, Law, and Politics
CNST 50001 / POLS 30661

American Founding & American Constitutional History
- CNST 20002 | POLS 20100 American Politics
- CNST 30005 | POLS 30663 The American Regime
- CNST 30009 | HIST 30601 Colonial America
- CNST 30010 | POLS 30201 US Foreign Policy
- CNST 30011 | POLS 30667 Economic Policy & the Constitution
- HIST 43757 Catholics & US Public life

Comparative Constitutionalism & International Law
- CNST 20200 | POLS 20400 World Politics: Intro to Comp
- CNST 20202 | HIST 20975 Making Australia
- CNST 30200 | POLS 30220 International Law
- CNST 30203 | POLS 30421 European Politics
- CNST 30211 | POLS 30222 International Criminal Justice
- CNST 30218 | POLS 30072 Comparative Civil Liberties
- CNST 30220 | POLS 30423 Irish Politics 1916-2009
- CNST 30221 | POLS 30491 Religion, Development & Dem. Africa
- CNST 40402 | POLS 40472 Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia

Constitutional Government & Public Policy
- CNST 20402 | PHIL 20434 Markets and Morality
- CNST 30405 | ESS 30629 Early Childhood Policy in the US
- CNST 40403 | ECON 40362 Monetary Policy
- CNST 43400 | SOC 43479 Intl. Migration & Human Rights
  ECON 33561 Tax Reform
  ECON 43410 Labor Law

Constitutionalism: History and Philosophy
- CNST 10600 | CLAS 10100 Ancient Greece and Rome
- CNST 20602 | POLS 20600 Political Theory
- CNST 20603 | CLAS 20205 The History of Ancient Rome
- CNST 20606 | THEO 20660 Theo, Biotechnology, Humanity
- CNST 30604 | HIST 30410 Tudor England
- CNST 30605 | HIST 30450 France: Old Regime to Revolution
- CNST 30606 | POLS 30656 Human Rights and Human Wrongs
- CNST 30610 | PHIL 30301 Ancient & Medieval Philosophy
- CNST 30612 | POLS 30415 Rise&Fall- Democracies & Dictatorship
- CNST 30617 | HIST 30501 Early Modern Rome
- CNST 30618 | POLS 30026 Women in Politics
- CNST 30619 | POLS 30601 Ancient and Medieval Theory
- CNST 40600 | CLAS 40130 Socrates and Athens
- CNST 40601 | THEO 40245 Augustine
- CNST 40602 | THEO 40290 Popes, Patriarchs, and Councils