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)
- Elective courses: three electives (total of 9 credit hours)
- Capstone experience: currently no dedicated capstone; one additional elective (3 credit hours)
Gateway Course: 
Prof. Patrick Deneen
MW 3:30-4:45 pm

Constitutionalism, Law, and Politics II: American Constitutionalism
CNST 50002 | POLS 30665

Elective Courses are grouped into four clusters:

These 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 focus area.

Capstone Experience: One additional elective

Updated Course Info: constudies.nd.edu/courses

Gateway Course: CNST 50002 | POLS 30665
Constitutionalism, Law, and Politics II: American Constitutionalism

American Founding & American Constitutional History
CNST 20002 | POLS 20100 American Politics
CNST 30003 | HIST 30604 US Civil War Era, 1848-1877
CNST 30004 | HIST 30640 Law and Religion in US History
CNST 30009 | POLS 30010 Colonial America
| AMST 30164 Catholics in America
| HIST 30611 Major American Presidents
| POLS 13181-04 USEM: Evolution of Voting Rights in the U.S.
| POLS 53001-04 James Madison: Political Thought & Statesmanship

Comparative Constitutionalism & International Law
CNST 20200 | POLS 20400 World Politics: Intro to Comp
CNST 20202 | HIST 20975 Making Australia
CNST 30203 | POLS 30241 European Politics
CNST 30211 | POLS 30222 International Criminal Justice
CNST 30227 | HIST 30355 From Rasputin to Putin
CNST 30238 | HIST 30453 French Revolution & Napoleon
| POLS 13181-05 USEM: International Justice
| POLS 13181-00 USEM: The American and French Revolutions

Constitutional Government & Public Policy
CNST 20403 | SOC 20732 Introduction to Criminology
CNST 30402 | ESS 30605 Education Law and Policy
CNST 30404 | POLS 30005 United States Congress
CNST 30419 | POLS 30077 Free Speech
CNST 30420 | CDT 40220 Cybercrime and the Law
CNST 40407 | POLS 40076 Church and State: A Moot Court Seminar
CNST 43400 | SOC 43479 Intl. Migration and Human Rights
| ECON 43410 Labor Law
| ECON 33201 Topics in Political Economy

Constitutionalism: History and Philosophy
CNST 10600 | CLAS 10100 Ancient Greece and Rome
CNST 20602 | POLS 20600 Political Theory
CNST 20608 | THEO 20639 Theology, Ethics, and Business
CNST 20609 | THEO 20843 The Church and Empire
CNST 20610 | CLAS 20105 The History of Ancient Greece
CNST 30602 | POLS 30653 Politics and Conscience
CNST 30604 | HIST 30410 Tudor England: Politics & Honor
CNST 30618 | POLS 30026 Women and Politics
CNST 30621 | HIST 30390 Christianity, Commerce, Consumerism
CNST 30628 | HIST 30603 New US Nation, 1787-1848
CNST 30629 | HIST 30606 US Gilded Age/Progressive Era
CNST 30632 | POLS 30617 Conservatism and the Constitution
CNST 43606 | SOC 43515 Political Sociology
| PHIL 20408-01 Philosophy of Law
| PHIL 20408-02 Philosophy of Law
| PHIL 20105 Intro to Phil. Ethics & Politics
| CDT 33001 Catholic Social Teaching
| POLS 43001-03 Tocqueville’s Democracy in America
| POLS 43001-07 Human Excellence in the Political Order

Gateway Course: CNST 50002 | POLS 30665
Constitutionalism, Law, and Politics II: American Constitutionalism

Comparative Constitutionalism & International Law
CNST 20200 | POLS 20400 World Politics: Intro to Comp
CNST 20202 | HIST 20975 Making Australia
CNST 30203 | POLS 30241 European Politics
CNST 30211 | POLS 30222 International Criminal Justice
CNST 30227 | HIST 30355 From Rasputin to Putin
CNST 30238 | HIST 30453 French Revolution & Napoleon
| POLS 13181-05 USEM: International Justice
| POLS 13181-00 USEM: The American and French Revolutions

Constitutionalism: History and Philosophy
CNST 10600 | CLAS 10100 Ancient Greece and Rome
CNST 20602 | POLS 20600 Political Theory
CNST 20608 | THEO 20639 Theology, Ethics, and Business
CNST 20609 | THEO 20843 The Church and Empire
CNST 20610 | CLAS 20105 The History of Ancient Greece
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CNST 30632 | POLS 30617 Conservatism and the Constitution
CNST 43606 | SOC 43515 Political Sociology
| PHIL 20408-01 Philosophy of Law
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Capstone Experience: One additional elective

Constitutional Studies
2040 Nanovic Hall
574.631.5351 | jsmith70@nd.edu

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