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:**
*to be offered Fall ’19*

**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. Students are not limited to just one focus area, nor is there a requirement to take one course from each section.*

**Capstone Experience:**
*One additional Elective*

**Updated Course Info:**
[constudies.nd.edu/courses](http://constudies.nd.edu/courses)

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**American Founding & American Constitutional History**
- CNST 20002 | POLS 20100: American Politics
- CNST 30019 | POLS 30004: The Presidency
- CNST 30020 | HIST 30863: The U.S. in the Reagan Years
- CNST 30414 | AMST 30108: History of American Capitalism
- CNST 43001 | ENGL 43620: Citizenship & American Novel
  - HIST 10400: Western Civilization since 1500
  - HIST 10760: FDR to Obama
  - POLS 13181-03: USEM: Democracy and Religion

**Comparative Constitutionalism & International Law**
- CNST 20200 | POLS 20400: World Politics: Intro to Comp
- CNST 30200 | POLS 30220: International Law
- CNST 30214 | CLAS 30211: Roman Criminal Law
- CNST 30233 | POLS 30441: Middle-East Politics
- CNST 30242 | HIST 30456: Bodies in European History
- CNST 30243 | POLS 30312: International Humanitarian Law
- CNST 30411 | HIST 30805: US Foreign Policy in Cold War
- CNST 30630 | HIST 30450: Old Regime France
- CNST 33200 | RU 33500: Behind the Iron Curtain
  - POLS 43002-06: Jr. Sem: Varieties of Democracy
  - POLS 53002-05: Sr. Sem: Authoritarian Politics
  - POLS 53002-06: Sr. Sem: Islamic Constitutionalism/Legal Tradition

**Constitutional Government & Public Policy**
- CNST 20403 | SOC 20732: Introduction to Criminology
- CNST 20405 | HESB 20010: Intro to Public Policy
- CNST 30421 | POLS 30164: Modern Constitutional Theory
- CNST 30422 | HESB 30330: Reinventing Government
- CNST 33400 | ECON 33150: Intro to Econ & Catholic Thought
  - HESB 43897: The Policy-Making Process
  - POLS 13181-04: USEM: Greatest War Story Ever Told
  - POLS 53002-04: Sr. Sem: Constitutional Interpretation

**Constitutionalism: History and Philosophy**
- CNST 20602 | POLS 20600: Political Theory
- CNST 20612 | CLAS 20010: History of Liberal Education
- CNST 30600 | CLAS 30112: The Age of Alexander
- CNST 30615 | POLS 30664: Liberalism and Conservatism
- CNST 30633 | POLS 30618: Am Conservatism & Constitutionalism II
- CNST 30634 | POLS 30717: Pol Phil of Communism/Fascism
- CNST 30635 | HIST 30554: Catholicism Confronts Modernity
- CNST 40605 | THEO 40613: Catholic Social Teaching
  - PHIL 10105: Intro to Phil: Ethics & Politics
  - PHIL 20425: Contemporary Political Philosophy
  - PHIL 43404: Philosophy of Law
  - PLS 30302: Political & Constitutional Theory

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**Spring 2019 Electives List**

Spring 2019 Electives List
Courses are subject to change

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