

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Fall 9-1-1996

PSC 471.01: Constitutional Law I - Federalism and Separation of Powers

James J. Lopach

University of Montana - Missoula, james.lopatch@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Lopach, James J., "PSC 471.01: Constitutional Law I - Federalism and Separation of Powers" (1996).

University of Montana Course Syllabi. 6904.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/6904>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

PSc W471
Con Law I: Federalism and Separation of Powers
Fall 1996

The course deals with governmental power in the American political system, especially concerning its source, nature, and conflicts. Two constitutional principles provide the critical perspectives: separation of powers and federalism. The discussion of separation of powers will treat national governmental powers in terms of legal and political relationships between federal courts, Congress, the president, and the bureaucracy. Examples of topics are judicial review, delegation of legislative power, legislative investigations, and presidential war power. The discussion of federalism will cover the powers of the states with emphasis on tensions resulting from distribution of powers between the central and state governments. Important themes will be state police powers and state regulation and taxation of interstate commerce. Opinions of the United States Supreme Court will serve as the basis of class discussion.

INSTRUCTOR: Jim Lopach, 243-4829

CLASS FORMAT: Students are expected to complete reading assignments prior to class meetings. In class, students will be called upon to present analyses of Supreme Court opinions. The instructor will lead discussion and lecture as required. Class discussion will concentrate on the meaning and significance of case principles, evolution of doctrine, and related contemporary problems of a practical nature.

READING ASSIGNMENT: Seven to ten pages per class meeting.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT: Each student will write four essays on topics central to the course. The essays will be typewritten, no more than two pages in length, and assigned several days prior to their due date. Grading will be based upon content (clarity and validity of argument) and correctness of writing (grammar, syntax, and logical development).

EXAMINATIONS: The midterm examination date will be announced one week in advance. The final examination, which will cover material from the midterm to the end of the course, is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 8:00-10:00.

GRADE:	Class attendance and participation	- 10% (20 points)	A=180-200 points
	Essays	- 30% (60 points)	B=160-179 points
	Midterm Examination	- 30% (60 points)	C=140-159 points
	Final Examination	- 30% (60 points)	D=120-139 points
			F- -119 points

HOLIDAYS: Monday, November 11
Wednesday-Friday, November 27-29

TEXT: Mason and Stephenson, American Constitutional Law, 11th Edition

DROP DEADLINE: October 14 is the last day to drop a course or change the grading option.