



# CRJ 200 A120: Constitutional Law

**3 Lecture Hours | 3 Credits |ZTC**

**Meets: MoTuWeTh 12:30PM - 2:15PM**

**Synchronous Online**

Summer I: May 31<sup>st</sup> to July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Professor Satenik Margaryan, Ph.D.**

**Class Meeting Link:** [ZOOM](#)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 11 am -12 pm on [ZOOM](#)

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## **I. Course Description**

This course provides a historical overview of the relationship of the states to the Bill of Rights, and how the Supreme Court has interpreted the powers of the federal government. The effect of the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment on the application of the Bill of Rights to the states is examined through a study of the leading Supreme Court decisions related to criminal justice. Topics include characteristics and powers of the three branches of government, the principles governing the operation of the Bill of Rights, and the variables affecting the formulation of judicial policy.

**Prerequisite:** POL 100

**Basic Skills Prerequisites:** ENG 88, ESL 94, or higher; ACR 94 or higher; and MAT 8 or higher

## II. Student Learning Outcomes & Means of Assessment

<b>Course Student Learning Outcomes</b> <b>Students will be able to:</b>	<b>Types of Assessments</b> <b>(for goals listed in first column)</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Explain</b> the historical development of the relationship between the United States Constitution and the criminal justice system.</li> <li>2. <b>Discuss</b> the general principles of the Bill of Rights, and the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.</li> <li>3. <b>Demonstrate</b> an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases related to criminal justice.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay exams</li> <li>• Multiple choice exams</li> <li>• Discussion board posts</li> <li>• Research paper</li> </ul>

### General Education Outcomes & Means of Assessment

Below are the college's general education goals that will be covered and assessed in this course.

<b>General Education Goals</b>	<b>Types of Assessments</b> <b>(for goals listed in first column)</b>
<p><b>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences –</b>            Students will understand and apply the concepts and methods of the social sciences. Student behaviors include being able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrate an understanding of the unique theories and methods of a social or behavioral science</li> <li>• analyze and interpret a social, economic, political, cultural, philosophical, or historical issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay exams or assignments</li> <li>• Multiple choice exams</li> <li>• Quizzes</li> <li>• Discussion board posts</li> <li>• Research paper</li> </ul>
<p><b>Information &amp; Technology Literacy-</b>            Students will collect, evaluate and interpret</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay exams or assignments</li> <li>• Multiple choice exams</li> <li>• Quizzes</li> </ul>

General Education Goals	Types of Assessments (for goals listed in first column)
information and effectively use information technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board posts</li> <li>• Research paper</li> </ul>

### What makes this course a Zero Textbook Cost course?

This course does not require students to purchase textbooks, using materials that are freely available or are available through the Library. In this course, you will access all materials through OpenLab.

### Required Texts

All of the required readings for this course are listed in the course timeline below and will be posted to OpenLab. You **must** access these materials for the course on OpenLab, so make sure you have access today. Visit this [site](#) for assistance accessing OpenLab.

## III. Use of Technology

### 1. BMCC OpenLab

[BMCC's OpenLab](#) is an online platform where the College's students, faculty and staff can come together to learn, work, play, share ideas and build community. All our course materials will be posted on BMCC OpenLab site: <https://openlab.bmcc.cuny.edu/crj-200-constitutional-law-satenik-margaryan-summer-2022/>

Please follow these steps to register for the course on the OpenLab:

1. Sign up for an OpenLab account with your BMCC email address— it's a quick and easy process! Here are the instructions.
2. Go to our course site here:  
<https://openlab.bmcc.cuny.edu/crj-200-constitutional-law->

[satenik-margaryan-summer-2022/](#)

3. Click on “Request Membership” under the course logo.

Once you are a member of the class, you will be able to view all the course materials and post and comment on the site. If you have any trouble with any of these steps, you can email me.

## **2. BLACKBOARD**

Once you register for the course, you will be enrolled in BMCC Blackboard site for the class. You will find the course syllabus and first few announcements on Blackboard. You will use Blackboard to take your exams. Your grades will also be posted on Blackboard. Please note that all teaching materials as well as assignment submissions will be in OpenLab only.

## **3. ZOOM**

ZOOM will be our primary platform for virtual meetings. If this is your first time using ZOOM, it is an “... easy, reliable cloud platform for video, voice, content sharing, and chat runs across mobile devices, desktops, telephones, and room systems.” You will need to register for our weekly meetings on ZOOM using this link:

[https://bmcc-cuny.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcOmgrzMuGNw\\_OVUs5mqHo03sAu7\\_nUfu](https://bmcc-cuny.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcOmgrzMuGNw_OVUs5mqHo03sAu7_nUfu)

## **4. DISCORD**

To create a community and to approximate to live classes where students and professor communicate freely, we will use Discord. You can download and sign up for Discord for free on [desktop](#), [iOS](#), [Android](#), or via your [web browser](#). Our Discord Server is accessed via invitation through this link:

<https://discord.gg/QHgpEPZeYb>

## **IV. Evaluation & Requirements of Students**

### **1. ASSIGNMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS**

#### **A. Class Participation:**

Participation in the academic activity of each course is a significant component of the learning process and plays a major role in determining overall student academic achievement. Academic activities may include, but are not limited to, attending class, submitting assignments, engaging in in-class or online activities, taking exams, and/or participating in group work. Each instructor has the right to establish their own class participation policy, and it is each student's responsibility to be familiar with and follow the participation policies for each course.

In other words: Ask questions. Be curious. You are more than welcome to have a different interpretation of the reading/video/issue than a classmate or me; just be sure to share your perspective in a productive and supportive manner.

**Reading Habits.** Develop effective reading habits. As a criminal justice scholar, it is essential that you set aside time to read and review the assigned materials prior to class. By reviewing the material, you will be prepared to actively engage in class discussions and ask constructive questions. The assigned readings may require you to use a dictionary and/or refer to concepts in your text. Be patient and allow yourself time to read and re-read. In order to make the most of this course, I want you to wrestle/analyze the readings, and mull over how they apply to your own experiences.

Reading all of the assigned materials for the class is essential. Always bring the assigned readings to class (on ZOOM). Reading assignments are due on the first day we meet each week. The reading that I assign is college-level, and might require you to use a dictionary. Please do not feel frustrated if you do not already know every word or concept you encounter in the readings. Be patient and allow yourself time to read and re-read. The reading may also be slow-going, so allow yourself an hour to read 10 pages. Most weeks you will be responsible for 30 to 50 pages, so please allow yourself between three and five hours outside of class to read the material each week.

The idea is to have class discussion. A great deal of learning happens in discussion, when

one's new ideas, guesses, hunches, ideological convictions, and moral persuasions meet others' ideas.

**Questions you should consider:**

- What was meaningful about the readings?
- What was the relationship between the weekly readings and current and/or past life experiences?
- What issues were missing from the readings?
- What were the major conceptual points in the assigned readings?

**Attendance and Participation Expectations.** Your attendance of classes is necessary for successful completion of this course. Online attendance is measured by your completion of the weekly tasks and not by merely showing up on ZOOM and/or logging on OpenLab/Blackboard.

**B. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT**

There will be one written assignment in this class. This written assignment will consist of writing an opinion editorial on a recent Supreme Court case. The assignment will be submitted as OpenLab posts, and other students will comment on your work. More information about this assignment will be posted on OpenLab site.

**C. EXAMS**

**Mid-term Examination**

Assigned readings and chapters, class presentations discussions, videos, and referenced media. Format: Multiple Choice, Short Answers/Essays.

**Final Examination**

Assigned readings and chapters, class presentations and discussions, videos, and referenced media. Format: Multiple Choice, Short Answers/Essays.

**Exam Policy.** A review document will be provided to all students to assist in preparing for both exams, although the best preparations are through reading and outlining the

readings and taking notes. Exams/quizzes will consist of a combination of objective, short answer, and essay questions. Assigned articles and online discussion topics will be included in the exam questions.

## 2. GRADING RUBRICS

Grades are designed to measure and reflect a student's acquired knowledge and understanding, and successful attainment of the intended learning outcomes. Because of the introductory nature of this class, assessments (grading) consists of the criteria described below.

### Evaluation & Course Requirements

The instructor may revise this grading pattern. Final grades may be determined as follows:

1. **Written Assignment 20%**
  2. **Midterm Exam 30%**
  3. **Final Exam 30%**
  4. **Class Participation 20%**
- Total 100%**

### GRADING SCALE

A 93% and above	A- 90-92%	B+ 87-89%	B 83-86%
B- 80 - 82%	C+ 77-79%	C 73-76%	C- 70-72%
D+ 67-69%	D 63-66%	D - 60-61%	F Below 60%

**V. COURSE CALENDAR/ASSIGNMENTS (subject to change with prior notice)**

UNITS	TOPIC/READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
<b>WEEK 1</b> (05/31 – 06/02)	<b>*Introduction, Syllabus</b> <b>*A Foundation for Understanding Constitutional Law</b>	
<b>WEEK 2</b> (06/06 -06/09)	<b>*An Overview of the U.S. Legal System</b> <b>*The U.S. Supreme Court: The Final Word</b> Readings: <a href="https://open.lib.umn.edu/criminallaw/part/chapter-2-the-legal-system-in-the-united-states/">https://open.lib.umn.edu/criminallaw/part/chapter-2-the-legal-system-in-the-united-states/</a> <a href="#">Marbury v. Madison 5 US 137</a>	
<b>WEEK 3</b> (06/13 – 06/16)	<b>*Equal Protection under the Law: Balancing Individual, State and Federal Rights</b> <b>*The First Amendment: Basic Freedoms</b> <b>*The Second Amendment: The Gun Control Controversy</b> Reading: Chapter 2: Bill of Rights Brian Duignan (2012). The U. S. constitution and constitutional law. Retrieved from <a href="http://ebookcentral.proquest.com">http://ebookcentral.proquest.com</a>	<b>MIDTERM</b>



<p>WEEK 4 (06/20 – 06/23)</p>	<p><b>*The Fourth Amendment: An Overview of Constitutional Searches and Seizures</b></p> <p><u>Reading:</u> Chapter 2: Bill of Rights Brian Duignan (2012). The U. S. Constitution and Constitutional law. Retrieved from <a href="http://ebookcentral.proquest.com">http://ebookcentral.proquest.com</a></p>	
<p>WEEK 5 (06/27 to 06/30)</p>	<p><b>*The Fifth Amendment: Obtaining Information Legally</b> <b>*The Sixth Amendment: Right to Counsel and a Fair Trial</b></p> <p><u>Reading:</u> Chapter 2: Bill of Rights Brian Duignan (2012). The U. S. Constitution and Constitutional law. Retrieved from <a href="http://ebookcentral.proquest.com">http://ebookcentral.proquest.com</a></p>	<p><b>WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT</b></p>
<p>WEEK 6 (07/05 to 07/11)</p>	<p><b>*The Eighth Amendment: Bail, Fines and Punishment</b> <b>*The Eleventh through Twenty-seventh Amendments</b> <b>*Supreme Court Decisions 2022</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u> 1. Chapter 2: Bill of Rights Brian Duignan (2012). The U. S.</p>	<p><b>FINAL 07/11</b></p>

Constitution and Constitutional law.

Retrieved from

<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com>

2. Chapter 3 The Eleventh through  
Twenty-seventh Amendments.

Brian Duignan (2012). The U. S.

Constitution and Constitutional

law. Retrieved from

<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com>

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/>

<http://www.scotusblog.com/>

\*Please note that this syllabus and course sequence, including materials covered on quizzes and exams are subject to change contingent on class progress, unscheduled activities, or other unanticipated factors.

## **VI. HELPFUL INFORMATION FROM BMCC**

### **BMCC Mask Mandate Policy for In-Person Classes**

CUNY has put in place a temporary mask mandate policy that requires the wearing of masks indoors in all campus buildings. See: <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/university-updates/clarity-new-mask/>

Face masks help prevent the spread of COVID-19. As it is possible to have or carry the coronavirus without having or showing symptoms, it is necessary for every person in our community to wear a mask even if you are fully vaccinated and/or have tested negative for COVID-19, or think you are completely healthy. For appropriate/acceptable masks and guidelines on use, see CDC guidelines at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

While the mask mandate is in effect, the following will apply to all in-person classes (including in-person classes associated with hybrid courses):

- In a classroom, if a fully vaccinated instructor is teaching a class and can maintain social distance from all others in the classroom, he/she may choose not to wear a mask (subject to any additional Department guidelines regarding the use of face shields or other layers of protection).
- Students who attempt to enter a classroom without wearing masks will be asked by the instructor to put on their masks before entering. Students who remove their masks during a class session will be asked by the instructor to put on their masks. Masks will be available for distribution for those who need one.
- Students may remove their masks momentarily during class (to drink something quickly), in classrooms other than labs, but must replace their masks immediately after that. The consumption of food is not permitted in any classroom or lab.
- Students who are not fully vaccinated are also required to maintain social distancing between themselves and all others in a classroom.

### **BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified.

Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source.

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's Web site, [www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu). For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

## **FREE BMCC STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

BMCC is committed to the health and well-being of all students. It is common for everyone to seek assistance at some point in their life, and there are free and confidential services on campus that can help.

**Advocacy and Resource Center (ARC)** <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/student-affairs/arc/> room S230, 212-220-8195, [arc@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:arc@bmcc.cuny.edu). If you are having problems with food or housing insecurity, finances, health insurance or anything else that might get in the way of your studies at BMCC, contact the Advocacy and Resource Center (formerly Single Stop) for assistance. Please contact us at [arc@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:arc@bmcc.cuny.edu), call 212-220- 8195, or come by the office at room S230. You may also contact the Office of Student Affairs, S350, 212-220- 8130, [studentaffairs@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@bmcc.cuny.edu), for assistance.

**Counseling Center** [www.bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling), room S343, 212-220-8140, [counselingcenter@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:counselingcenter@bmcc.cuny.edu). Counselors assist students in addressing psychological and adjustment issues (i.e., depression, anxiety, and relationships) and can help with stress, time management and more. Counselors are available for walk-in visits.

**Office of Compliance and Diversity** <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/about-bmcc/compliance-diversity>, room S701, 212-220-1236. BMCC is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive learning environment free of unlawful discrimination/harassment, including sexual harassment, where all students are treated fairly. For information about BMCC's policies and resources, or to request additional assistance in this area, please visit or call the office, or email [olevy@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:olevy@bmcc.cuny.edu), or [twade@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:twade@bmcc.cuny.edu). If you need immediate assistance, please contact BMCC Public safety at 212-220-8080.

**Office of Accessibility** [www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility), Students who need academic accommodations in connection with a disability must initiate the request with BMCC's Office of Accessibility (OA). Students need to register with the Office of Accessibility in order to officially disclose their disability status to the College and to determine eligibility for appropriate reasonable accommodations (including any prior IEPs or 504s). Please contact the OA at the start of the semester (or as soon as possible) to coordinate any accommodation request/s: [www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility), Room N360 (accessible

entrance: 77 Harrison Street), 212-220-8180, [accessibility@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:accessibility@bmcc.cuny.edu).

**HAVE A HEALTHY SUMMER 2022 SEMESTER!**

