

## History 483: US Constitutional History to 1877 (Fall 2008)

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This course explores the origins of American constitutional concepts, the writing of the Constitution, American federalism, and the constitutional controversies caused by sectionalism, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

### **Readings (on sale in the book store):**

Alfred H. Kelley, Winfred A. Harbison, and Herman Belz, *The American Constitution: Its Origin and Development*, 7th ed., vol. one.

Kermit Hall, ed., *Major Problems in American Constitutional History*, vol. one.

You should have the reading done before the days scheduled.

There will be two exams and two papers. They will be of equal value in determining the final grade, together with quizzes and class participation.

### Schedule of Classes and Readings

#### **Sept. 2: Course Introduction—Constitutionalism**

Read: KHB Introduction; Hall chapter 1.

#### **Sept. 4: Sources of American constitutionalism to 1689**

Read: KHB chapters 1-2; Hall chapter 2, pp. 64-67.

#### **Sept. 9: Eighteenth century constitutionalism and politics**

Read: KHB ch. 3.

#### **Sept. 11, 16: Revolutionary Constitutionalism**

Read: KHB chs. 4-5; Hall ch. 3; Articles of Confederation.

#### **Sept. 18, 23, 25: The Constitution**

Read: KHB chs. 6-7; Hall chs. 4-5; the Constitution.

#### **Sept. 26: First paper due.**

#### **Sept. 28, Oct. 5: Federalists and Jeffersonians**

KHB chs. 8-9; Hall ch. 6.

**Oct. 3: First exam.**

**Oct. 10, 12: The Judiciary in the Early Republic**

KHB ch. 10; Hall 276-91, 301-04, 314-32.

**Oct. 19, 24: John Marshall and Constitutional Nationalism**

KHB ch. 11; Hall pp. 291-99, 304-14, 405-17.

**Oct. 24: Second paper due.**

**Oct. 26, 31: Jacksonian Democracy and the Taney Court.**

KHB chs. 12-13; Hall chs. 8-9, pp. 417-50.

**Nov. 2: Exam 2.**

**Nov. 7, 9, 14: Slavery**

KHB chs. 14-15; Hall ch. 11.

**Nov. 16: The Civil War**

KHB ch. 16.

**Nov. 21, 28, 30, Dec. 5: Reconstruction**

KHB chs. 17-18; Hall ch. 12.