

Course Title: **American Politics and Constitutional Law**

Course Code: **LAWS904**

Descriptor Start Date: **01/01/2023**

POINTS: **30.00**

LEVEL: **9**

PREREQUISITE/S: **None**

COREQUISITE/S: **LAWS901**

RESTRICTION/S: **None**

## LEARNING HOURS

Hours may include lectures, tutorials, online forums, laboratories. Refer to your timetable and course information in Canvas for detailed information.

**Total learning hours: 300**

## PRESCRIPTOR

Develops a solid grounding in American Constitutional Law and Rights. Builds the knowledge, skills, and critical sensibility needed to engage in on-going analysis of American law, politics and policy and uses acquired insights to critically evaluate New Zealand constitutional law and human rights. Investigates various aspects of American constitutional law and enables students to gain insights into American law and politics. Recently, the American institutions and rule of law have come under increasing stress due to political polarisation, culture wars and the degradation of public discourse. Using case and statute law as well as comparisons to New Zealand Constitutional law and legal doctrine, an examination is conducted of the American Doctrine of Judicial Review, the First Amendment (Freedom of Press and Religion), Gun control (2nd Amendment), Abortion and Privacy Rights, LGBTQ plus rights, and Indigenous Treaty Rights..

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Critically examine the American system of government and the politics associated with it.
2. Critically analyse American constitutional law including rights found in the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment.
3. Recognise and critically reflect upon both the positive and negative aspects of American and New Zealand constitutional and human rights law.
4. Appropriately draw out similarities and differences between the constitutional law of the United States and New Zealand.

**Disclaimer: Course descriptors may be amended between teaching periods/semesters**

## CONTENT

- American Constitutional Law and Rights.
- Influence of rights discourse, law and public policy ideas. - Analysis of American law, politics and policy.
- Insights into American law and politics in the 2022 election. - Political polarisation, culture wars and the degradation of public discourse.
- Case and statute law as well as comparisons to New Zealand Constitutional and Human Rights law and legal doctrine
- American Doctrine of Judicial Review, the First amendment (Freedom of Press and Religion), Civil Rights and Equal Protection, Gun control (2nd Amendment), Abortion and Privacy Rights, LGBTQ plus rights, and Indigenous Treaty Rights.

## LEARNING & TEACHING STRATEGIES

An appropriate range of strategies that may include lectures, workshops & online learning.

## ASSESSMENT PLAN

Assessment Event	Weighting %	Learning Outcomes
Research paper (individual)	100.00	1 - 4

### Grade Map

#### MAP1

A+ A A- Pass with Distinction

B+ B B- Pass with Merit

C+ C C- Pass

D Fail

### Overall requirement/s to pass the course:

50% overall

## LEARNING RESOURCES

Details of all learning resources (including journals, databases, websites etc) are available on Canvas. Required Text(s): If there is a required text, details are available by searching the University Bookshop's website: [www.ubiq.co.nz](http://www.ubiq.co.nz)

**For further information, contact:** Te Ara Pakihi, Te Ohanga Me Te Ture - Faculty of Business, Economics and Law

**Principal Programme:** AK1044, Master of Laws

**Related Programme/s:** AK1050

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