

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

SEMESTER I YEAR 1975-76

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
629	American Constitutional Development to 1877	Kutler

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course divides into two distinct topics and periods. First, we are concerned with the origin and development of American fundamental law from the European and English background, and through the colonial and revolutionary periods. The fulfillment of these concepts will then be treated at length as we discuss and analyze the writing and implementation of the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, and state constitutions. The remainder of the course will be devoted to an understanding of the role of constitutional law in American political, social, and economic developments in the 19th century. We will look at many familiar problems of American history in this period -- establishing the new national government, civil liberties, national expansion, land policy, fiscal and monetary policy, slavery, and reconstruction -- but we will do so from the perspective of constitutional law. In so doing, we should understand the concept of the "living constitution" and the adaptation of law and institutions to fulfill the needs of society.

LECTURES

Twice weekly, supplemented by discussion within the lecture period when appropriate, and within a separate, assigned discussion period.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMS

Med-term, brief reading report, and in-class final examination.

GRADING SYSTEM

Exams and papers are graded equally, with the exception of some additional weight for the final. Discussion section participation will figure in the final grade.

REQUIRED READINGS

To be assigned