

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Social Sciences

College of Arts & Sciences

**HI 361 U.S. Constitutional History** 3 Credit Hours; CRN 10098

Fall 2018

M 5:00-7:40pm, SSB 3-11

Instructor: Dr. Micah Rueber

Office hours: M 3:00-5:00

Office Location: History Suite – Room 17

TR 7:30-8:00, 10:40-12:10

Email address: Rueber.mvsu@gmail.com

W 7:30-11:30

And by appointment

**Catalog Description:** The development of American constitutional principles and practices, focusing on federalism, the separation of powers, and the Bill of Rights

**Required Texts:**

Akhil Red Amar: *America's Constitution: A Biography* (Random House, 2010). ISBN 0812972724

John A. Garraty, ed.: *Quarrels That Have Shaped the Constitution* (Harper Perennial, 2009). ISBN 0061320846

Linda R. Monk: *The Words We Live By* (Hachette Books, 2010). ISBN 078688620X

**Electronic Reserves:** Course materials including assignments and additional readings will be posted on the MVSU Library's Electronic Reserves page. You can reach the library's homepage via a link from mvsu.edu. If you have trouble accessing the course's page, please contact the instructor.

**Turnitin:** Papers must be submitted via the course's turnitin account. You will need to create an account at turnitin.com. This is free and easy; if you have problems, please contact the instructor. You will need the course number and password. The course # is **18752671**; the password is **history**

**Attendance:** Students are expected not only to attend class, but to show up prepared and ready to participate. Students will receive 100 points a week: 50 for attendance, and 50 for participation.

**Classroom Behavior and Expectations:** Students are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner. This includes showing respect for themselves, their classmates, and the instructor. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. This includes: eating, texting, wearing headphones, disrespectful behavior toward any class member, taking phone calls, leaving the classroom without permission, talking, sleeping, or leaving class early.

The main expectation is that you come to class prepared and actively engage in your own education. This means doing the reading before class, turning in assignments on time, and asking questions when things are unclear.

**Email:** I check my email daily during the work week, and will always reply. If you do not receive a reply within a day, chances are I did not receive your email. Emails should include your name and course information and be written in an appropriate tone; emails using “text-ese” or other inappropriate language and grammar will not be answered, nor will I reply to emails when it is not clear who I am talking to. Due to university policies, I will not discuss grades via e-mail.

**Reading:** History is a study of the written word. Moreover, it is impossible to cover all the required material in the lectures. Therefore it is imperative that you come to class prepared. That means reading the assigned material before class. The readings include the required texts as well as other material that will be posted on Electronic Reserve.

**Technology:** Cell phones and laptop computers can be useful tools. However, in the classroom they too often distract from rather than contribute to learning. Students found phoning, texting, chatting, social networking or playing games during class will be asked to leave class for the day. Further incidents may result in further penalties. If you are expecting an emergency message, please notify the instructor before class and handle the message discreetly. Lectures may not be taped or filmed without the permission of the instructor.

**Article Reviews:** During the term students will write three short papers on readings which will be assigned. They are due by noon on the dates indicated on the calendar. They must be submitted via turnitin.com. Details for the assignments will be posted on Electronic Reserves at least one week before they are due.

No late papers will be accepted; you may, of course, turn them in early.

**Exams:** We will have 2 exams: a midterm and a final. They are take home exams and you may (and should) use your books, notes, and other course materials. The due date for the midterm is posted on the calendar below; the date for the final will be announced when we get the finals schedule.

**Papers and Presentation:** Students will write two longer papers over the course of the term. The first will address one of the essays from the Federalist; the second will examine in more depth one of the court cases discussed in the Quarrels book. Students will also deliver a short presentation about their paper in class. Details will be posted on Electronic Reserves.

**Course Grade:** Your grade for the course will be computed by the following formula:

Attendance (14x100)	1400
Article Reviews (3x250 points each)	750
Papers/Presentations (2x500)	1000
Mid-Term Exam:	500
<u>Final:</u>	<u>500</u>
Final Grade	4150

**Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students are expected to make themselves aware of MVSU's academic dishonesty guidelines, which can be found in the student handbook.

Students are required to submit the course syllabus and the University's Statement on Academic Dishonesty to turnitin.com by Friday, September 4. Doing so acknowledges that you are familiar with both documents. Failure to submit these documents will result in a failing grade in the course.

### **Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Statement**

Mississippi Valley State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with a documented disability. If you feel you are eligible to receive accommodations for a covered disability (medical, physical, psychiatric, learning, vision, hearing, etc.) and would like to request it for this course, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) program administered by University College. It is recommended that you visit the Disabilities Office located inside the EMAP Computer Lab in the Technical Education (IT) Building to register for the program at the beginning of each semester. If you are determined to be eligible after your confidential consultation, you will be provided with a Memo of Accommodations that must be submitted to each of your instructors.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Mr. Billy Benson, Jr. via phone or email at 662-254-3005 or [billy.benson@mvsu.edu](mailto:billy.benson@mvsu.edu).

***NOTE: This document does not constitute a contract with the University. It contains guidelines. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary in the syllabus.***

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	8/20	Introduction

- 2      8/27    English and American Origins  
*Words* through Article II
- 3      9/3      No Class – Labor Day
- 4      9/10    The Revolution and Articles  
*Words* through Amendment VI
- 5      9/17    The Convention and Constitution  
*Words* through end  
First article review due by noon on Thursday, February 4
- 6      9/24    The Early Republic  
*Biography* chapters 1,2
- 7      10/1    The Age of Jackson  
*Biography* chapters 3,4  
Federalist paper due by noon on Thursday, February 18  
Hand out midterm exam – midterm due via turnitin.com by midnight on Wednesday 10/3.
- 8      10/8    Slavery and the Constitution  
*Biography* chapters 5,6
- 9      10/15   The Civil War  
*Biography* chapters 7,8  
Midterm due by noon on Thursday, March 3
- 10     10/22   Reconstruction  
*Biography* chapters 9,10
- 11     10/29   The Industrial and State and the Progressives  
*Biography* chapters 11, 12  
*Quarrels* chapter 1,2  
Second article review due by noon on Thursday, March 24
- 12     11/5    World War 1 and the 1920s  
*Quarrels* 3-8  
Second “How Would You Decide?” Paper due by noon on Thursday, March 31
- 13     11/12   The New Deal and World War 2  
*Quarrels* 9-13  
Third article review due by noon on Thursday, April 7
- 14     11/19   **No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday**

15 11/26 Individual Liberties

*Quarrels* 14-end

Court case essay due by noon on Thursday, April 21

**Final exam will be handed out in class and due via turnitin by midnight on Monday, December 3.**