

# CONSTITUTIONAL LAW I

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895-0481

## **FIRST ASSIGNMENT:**

Please read:

The U.S. Constitution  
Articles of Confederation  
Declaration of Independence

Please work through "Test Your Knowledge" (attached) prior to class and bring your answers to the first class.

## Test your knowledge: The Declaration of Independence and US Constitution

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1. *Choose one.* The Declaration of Independence (DOI) begins with the words:
  - a. To all to whom these Presents shall come
  - b. When, in the
  - c. We the People
  - d. Four score and
  
2. *Select the best answer.* As understood by signers, the purpose of the DOI was to
  - a. Present a bill of particulars against George III.
  - b. Declare the principles under which Americans as well as English loyal subjects would establish government in the colonies.
  - c. Protest the imposition of taxes by English parliament.
  - d. Preserve property rights in slaves.
  
3. *Choose one.* Both the DOI and the US Constitution declare that all men are created equal and are entitled to “inalienable rights.”
  - a. True
  - b. False. Only the US Constitution declares that all men are created equal and are entitled to expect government to respect their inalienable rights.
  - c. False. Only the DOI declares that all men are created equal and are entitled to expect government to respect their inalienable rights.
  
4. *Choose one.* The Constitution of the United States begins with the words:
  - a. To all to whom these Presents shall come
  - b. When, in the
  - c. We the People
  - d. All men are
  
5. *Select all answers which apply.* As understood by the Framers, the purpose of the US Constitution was to
  - a. “Form a more perfect Union.”
  - b. Provide for governmental structure, both at the state level and the federal level, consistent with fundamental democratic principles.
  - c. Guarantee the rights of the people vis-à-vis their state and federal government.
  - d. Make it possible for the federal government to afford the necessary defense that would protect the fledgling nation of the United States from predatory efforts of Britain and other European powers.

6. *Which of the following, if any, is/are true?* The framers of the United States Constitution
  - a. Had over a year to discuss the contents of the Constitution
  - b. Were in unanimous agreement as to the fundamental principles of government set forth in the Constitution.
  - c. Were primarily concerned, out of political necessity, with balancing the power and interests of the Northern states versus Southern states; the small states versus large states.
  - d. Knew that they had failed to address the inherent immorality of slavery.
  
7. *What is the "Bill of Rights"?* The Bill of Rights was part of the original Constitution. *True or False*
  
8. *Select all which apply.* Neither the DOI nor the US Constitution mention:
  - a. Revolution
  - b. The loyalty owed by the colonists as then English subjects to their sworn sovereign, George III
  - c. The benefits that the colonists had received from England, such as subsidized militia that had protected the colonists from other European powers and hostile Native Americans
  - d. Slavery
  - e. Women
  
9. *True or False.* The US Constitution was never properly adopted by the people of the United States of America.
  
10. *What is the purpose of any constitution? Does the US Constitution fulfill those purposes? How?*