Contact information
Instructor: Toni McClory
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Office: 05-135 (same building as campus bookstore)
Office hours: MW 11:00a-12:00; TR 8:30a-10:00. (Other times by appointment)
Location: This eCourse is hosted on Blackboard: http://www.maricopa.edu/blackboard/
► Emergency backup site (if Blackboard is down):: http://web.gccaz.edu/~tmcclory/USonline/USonline.htm
   (write this URL down or bookmark it!)

Required texts
You don’t need to buy any texts for this class. Required reading is available online:
• Factsheets (download online or available for copy cost at the GCC Copy Center next to the bookstore)
• McClory, Toni, ed., At the Schoolhouse Gate: Student Rights Cases (2007 ed.) (download online or available for copy cost at the GCC Copy Center (next to bookstore) or the College Book Center across the street)

About the course
There are many good reasons to study the U.S. Constitution: The Constitution is vital to an understanding of American government and contemporary politics. It is the primary legal source of our rights and freedoms. And it is a document of immense historic importance. This course will examine: (1) the Constitution’s origins and underlying philosophy; (2) how the Constitution defines and restricts the power of the national government; and (3) how the Constitution protects individual rights and liberties. There will be special emphasis on constitutional issues that arise in educational contexts. There are no prerequisites. To learn more check MCCCD’s official course description and course competencies.

Class policies
• This 10-week online class moves very quickly. Expect to spend roughly 6 hours per week on this course. Because a significant amount of reading is involved, this online section is suggested for self-motivated students with strong time-management skills and good study habits. You must be proficient with a web browser like Internet Explorer and have good computer skills.
• Late work will be accepted with a 10% grade deduction. (The penalty will be waived for special circumstances.)
• Your own words please! To receive credit, all written work must be in your own words unless you are quoting and properly credit the source. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and the penalties are severe. (See MCCCD Online Manual, 2.3.11. There are no joint projects in this course.
• Please keep a copy of all your work until the end of the course as insurance against loss by you or me.
• Let me know if you have any special needs that require accommodation and please make the appropriate arrangements with the College’s Disability Services Office (623) 845-3080.
• Consult the GCC Student Handbook and the MCCCD Student Guide to learn your rights and responsibilities as a student at GCC.

**Grading**

The course grade will be based on the following point system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Discussion contributions (5 points each)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Unit Quizzes (Some 10 points, some 5)*</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper*</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam*</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total points</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*must be completed to pass the course

A = 180 points or higher; B = 160–179 points; C = 132–159 points; D = 120–131 points; F = below 120 points.

Strong participation in class discussions will be considered in borderline cases.

**Extra credit**

Up to 20 extra credit points can be earned by completing additional assignments that will be announced in class. These credits can be used to offset low grades or late penalties. They cannot be used as substitutes for the required assignments designated above.