

POLS 1101  
OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS  
BUCKNER F. MELTON, JR.

This isn't a comprehensive outline. Furthermore, nothing can substitute for consulting the actual text of the Constitution. This is merely a general guide. The provisions likely to be covered heavily in this class are underlined, although other provisions may be covered as well.

**PREAMBLE:** Purposes of Constitution: has no legal force

**ARTICLE I: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section. 1.** Grant of legislative power

**Section. 2.** House of Representatives; structure and elections; impeachment power

**Section. 3.** Senate; structure and elections; impeachment trials

**Section. 4.** Elections and meetings of Congress

**Section. 5.** Organization; expulsion power; journals; adjournment

**Section. 6.** Compensation; privilege; officeholding ban

**Section. 7.** Legislative process; presentment; veto; pocket veto; override; adjournment

**Section. 8.** Powers of Congress (Particularly taxation, interstate/foreign commerce, war powers, and implied powers clause)

**Section. 9.** Limitations on Congressional power

**Section. 10.** Limitations on state power

**ARTICLE II: EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**Section. 1.** Grant of executive power; qualifications; electoral college; presidential succession; oath of office

**Section 2.** Presidential powers (including commander-in-chief, opinions from executive department principal officers; pardons, treaty power, ambassadorial appointments, judicial appointments, recess appointments)

**Section. 3.** Presidential powers (including state of the Union; reception of Ambassadors, convening and adjourning of Congress, Take Care Clause/Faithful Execution Clause, commissioning power)

**Section. 4.** Impeachment Clause (who subject to impeachment, what for)

**ARTICLE III: JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**Section. 1.** Supreme Court; inferior courts; appointment for good behavior

**Section. 2.** Jurisdiction (including Supreme and lower courts, original/appellate jurisdiction of Supreme Court, case or Controversy Clause)

**Section. 3.** Treason (definitions, limitation on punishment)

## **ARTICLE IV: INTERSTATE RELATIONS; NATIONAL/STATE/TERRITORIAL RELATIONS**

### **Section. 1. Full Faith and Credit Clause**

**Section. 2.** Privileges and Immunities Clause; extradition; Fugitive Slave Clause

**Section. 3.** Admission of new states; government of territories

**Section. 4.** Republican Form of Government Clause

## **ARTICLE V: METHODS OF AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION**

## **ARTICLE VI: CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLE (VALIDITY OF PRIOR DEBTS; SUPREMACY CLAUSE; OATH CLAUSE; RELIGIOUS TEST CLAUSE)**

## **ARTICLE VII: METHOD OF RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The First Ten Amendments are collectively known as the Bill of Rights.

**Amendment I.** (Ratified December 15, 1791): Freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, petition

**Amendment II.** (Ratified December 15, 1791) Right to keep and bear arms

**Amendment III.** (Ratified December 15, 1791) Quartering of troops

**Amendment IV.** (Ratified December 15, 1791) Criminal procedure—investigation: searches, seizures, warrants, probable cause

**Amendment V.** (Ratified December 15, 1791) Criminal procedure—adjudication: indictment, double jeopardy, self-incrimination, due process: The Takings Clause

**Amendment VI.** (Ratified December 15, 1791) Criminal procedure—adjudication: speedy trial, trial by jury, confrontation of witnesses, compulsory process, right to counsel

**Amendment VII.** (Ratified December 15, 1791) Jury trials in civil cases

**Amendment VIII.** (Ratified December 15, 1791) Bail; Cruel and unusual punishments

**Amendment IX.** (Ratified December 15, 1791) Unenumerated rights

**Amendment X.** (Ratified December 15, 1791) Federalism amendment

**Amendment XI.** (Ratified February 7, 1795) State judicial immunity

**Amendment XII.** (Ratified June 15, 1804) Electoral College revision

**Amendment XIII.** (Ratified December 6, 1875) Prohibition of slavery

**Amendment XIV.** (Ratified July 9, 1868) Federalism Amendment: Citizenship Clause, state Due Process Clause, Equal Protection Clause, anti-Confederate clauses

**Amendment XV. (Ratified February 3, 1870) Black suffrage**

**Amendment XVI.** (Ratified February 3, 1913) Income taxes

**Amendment XVII.** (Ratified April 8, 1913) Direct election of senators

**Amendment XVIII.** (Ratified January 16, 1919; Repealed December 5, 1933) Prohibition

**Amendment XIX.** (Ratified August 18, 1920) Female suffrage

**Amendment XX.** (Ratified January 23, 1933) Presidential terms and succession

**Amendment XXI.** (Ratified December 5, 1933) Repeal of Prohibition

**Amendment XXII.** (Ratified February 27, 1951) Two-term presidential limit

**Amendment XXIII.** (Ratified March 29, 1961) District of Columbia's vote in presidential elections

**Amendment XXIV.** (Ratified January 23, 1964) Poll tax prohibition

**Amendment XXV.** (Ratified February 10, 1967) Presidential succession and incapacitation

**Amendment XXVI.** (Ratified July 1, 1971) Suffrage for eighteen year olds

**Amendment XXVII.** (Submitted September 25, 1789; Ratified May 7, 1992) Congressional compensation