



Const Dem/Poli Sci 4231: Constitutional Litigation

Spring 2027 (Three Credit Hours)

Call-for-Applications: Deadline Wednesday, October 21, 2026

CNST_DEM/POL_SC 4231: Constitutional Litigation (see description below) will be taught in the Spring 2027 semester by Prof. Emily Regier, Assistant Professor of Constitutional Democracy and Political Science at the Kinder Institute and Truman School of Government and Public Affairs. In addition to regular class meetings (T/Th 2-3:15), the course includes a Spring Break trip to Washington, D.C., where students tour sites of relevance to the class.

There is a supplemental course fee of ~\$1,200 associated with the class, which covers airfare, hotels, and most meals in D.C. Students who are accepted into the course will be able to apply for a limited number of need-based scholarships to help offset this cost.

Course Description

This course focuses on the role of the United States Supreme Court as a constitutional decision maker and the features of the litigation that enable it to play that role. We will take up fundamental questions about judicial review, its justifications, and its relationship to constitutional democracy. We will explore debates about judicial legitimacy and competing modes of constitutional interpretation. We will learn about how the Court chooses its cases and consider how social and political movements, historical circumstances, and judicial philosophies have driven the development of constitutional doctrine.

Application Process

Since enrollment is limited to 18 students, we ask that anyone interested in taking the course complete the brief application on page two of this document and submit it to **Dr. Thomas Kane, KaneTC@missouri.edu**, by **Wednesday, October 21, 2026**. Permission numbers will be issued to all successful applicants prior to Spring 2027 open course registration. Students should add the course to their schedule as close to their spring enrollment date as possible, so that open seats may be offered to anyone on the wait list. Application materials must be submitted as an MS Word document or PDF.

CNST_DEM/POL_SC 4231: Constitutional Litigation
Spring 2027 Application Materials

APPLICATION PART ONE: ACADEMIC RESUME

Students should provide an academic resume that, at a minimum, contains the following: your major(s)/minor(s)/certificate(s), GPA, relevant coursework, semester and year you entered Mizzou, expected graduation date, work and volunteer experience, and details about clubs/organizations on campus that you participate in, as well as leadership positions held, if and where applicable.

APPLICATION PART TWO: SHORT ESSAYS

Students should respond to **both** of the following prompts in no more than 250 words **each**, making sure to include the word count after their answers.

Prompt 1: Describe your interest in learning about constitutional litigation.

Prompt 2: Choose a United States Supreme Court case and explain its significance.

Save both application components **in a single document** (MS Word or PDF) using the file name “Your Last Name-Con Lit Application”

Submit applications to Dr. Thomas Kane, KaneTC@missouri.edu, by Wednesday October 21, 2026