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**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education  
PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA  
NAMED AFTER PATRICE LUMUMBA  
RUDN University**

**Law Institute**

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educational division (faculty/institute/academy) as higher education programme developer

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

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**Current Issues of US Constitutional Law**

course title

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**Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:**

**40.04.01. Law**

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field of studies / speciality code and title

**The course instruction is implemented within the professional education programme of higher education:**

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**Constitutional Law and Constitutional Procedure**

higher education programme profile/specialisation title

## 1. COURSE GOAL(s)

The main purpose of the course is to introduce students to the arrangement of constitutional law of the USA, from the origins of the state to present day.

Upon completion of the course the student is expected to:

**know** the basic theoretical issues related to the formation of the constitutional system of the USA during various periods of history and to the place of the governmental and local property in the economic basis of the society; the prime characteristics of social obligations in the USA's constitutional arrangement; the public authorities' capacity in the domain of public and private property regulation, management and control;

**have an idea** of the primary directions of the constitutional reform, the arrangement and issues of legal regulation of government and local authorities' contractual and financial relations; be capable of generalization of the USA's experience in successfully handling the matters of local significance; make their own justified suggestions regarding the trajectories of further improvement of the economic basis of government and local authorities.

**be able to** handle the constitutional, local, administrative, civil and other specific legislation regarding the matters of compound regulation of the governmental and private property relations; analyse the subject matter of the legislative acts in the field and their application, distinguish the acts of higher priority in the public and private property relations regulation hierarchy; characterize the public authorities' place and capacity in the domain of ownership relations;

**have an idea** of the basic legal mechanics of the constitutional regulation of ownership, including governmental, local and private ownership management, the primary constitutional legislative principles of influencing the course of citizens' personal, political, socio-economic and cultural rights, the biggest issues of the field and prospects of their resolution.

**have acquired** the skills of public debate regarding the matters of legal foundation to the state's participation in economic and social fields, analysis of the primary legal methods and means of constitutional regulation of economic and social relations, and drafting of the essential prerequisite material for further use in preparing the drafts of legislative acts in the domain of regulation of government's interference into economic and social fields.

## 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mastering the course is aimed at the Master's students' formation of the following competencies (part of competencies):

*Table 2.1. List of competences that students acquire through the course study*

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators (within this course)
GPC-4	Can use their speaking and writing skills to express a legal position regarding the case in adversary proceedings as well as different settings.	GPC-4.1. Knows the meaning of the basic and specific legal concepts, terms, and definitions, can use them to construct their oral and written position regarding specific legal issue.

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators (within this course)
PC-3	Can draft regulatory acts using relevant achievements of legal science, taking into account the international practices and regulation, and the legal system development tendencies.	PC-3.1. Can reveal the societal need for legal regulation of specific societal relations, formulate the concept of corresponding regulation; PC-3.3. Conducts drafting of regulatory acts in various areas of law with account taken of the current achievements of the science of law, national legal system development tendencies, and international practices and regulation of societal relation of analogous nature.
PC-4	Can provide qualified legal expertise of legal acts	PC-4.3. Has practical research skills for legal expertise of drafts of legal acts of various fields of law taking into account the rules of legal writing, legal science achievements, tendencies of the national legal system development, and international experience in regulating societal relations of analogous nature.

### 3. COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course refers to the core/variable/elective\* component of (B1) block of the higher educational programme curriculum.

\* - Underline whatever applicable.

Within the higher education programme students also master other (modules) and / or internships that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as results of the course study.

*Table 3.1. The list of the higher education programme components/disciplines that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as the course study results*

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Previous courses/modules*	Subsequent courses/modules*
GPC-4	Can use their speaking and writing skills to express a legal position regarding the case in adversary proceedings as well as different settings.	Философия права; Правовая аналитика; Конституционная юстиция	Учебная практика (педагогическая); Производственная практика, в т.ч. преддипломная; Подготовка к сдаче и сдача государственного экзамена; Оформление, подготовка к процедуре защиты и защита выпускной квалификационной работы
PC-3	Can draft regulatory acts using relevant achievements of legal science, taking into account the international practices and regulation, and the legal system development tendencies.	Конституционные основы механизма правового регулирования	Конституционно-правовое регулирование прав и свобод человека и гражданина в России и за рубежом; Избирательное право и избирательные споры; Институт президентства: конституционные основы и практика

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Previous courses/modules*	Subsequent courses/modules*
			<p>функционирования;  Проблемы конституционного права стран Ближнего Востока, Азии и Африки;  Государственное управление;  Исполнительная власть: проблемы организации и функционирования;  Конституционная политология;  Разработка и принятие нормативных правовых актов: теория и практика нормотворчества;  Производственная практика, в т.ч. преддипломная;  Подготовка к сдаче и сдача государственного экзамена</p>
PC-4	Can provide qualified legal expertise of legal acts	<p>Правовая аналитика;  Конституционное регулирование в сфере публично-правовых отношений;  Конституционная юстиция</p>	<p>Судебные и внесудебные механизмы защиты прав и законных интересов;  Избирательное право и избирательные споры;  Конституционно-правовое регулирование налогообложения;  Влияние на принятие государственно-управленческих решений: теория и практика лоббизма;  Производственная практика, в т.ч. преддипломная;  Оформление, подготовка к процедуре защиты и защита выпускной квалификационной работы</p>

\* To be filled in according to the competence matrix of the higher education programme.

#### 4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

1) The total workload of the course is 2 credits (72 academic hours).

Table 4.1. Types of academic activities during the periods of higher education programme mastering (**full-time training**)\*

Type of academic activities	Total academic hours	Training modules

Type of academic activities		Total academic hours	Training modules
			6
<i>Contact academic hours</i>		32	32
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)		32	32
<i>Self-studies</i>		22	22
<i>Evaluation and assessment (exam/passing/failing grade)</i>		18	18
<b>Course workload</b>	academic hours	<b>72</b>	<b>72</b>
	credits	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

## 5. COURSE CONTENTS

*Table 5.1. Course contents and academic activities types*

Course module title	Topics	Course topic contents	Academic activities types
Subject, mission and methodology of research of the USA's constitutional law.	Subject and mission of the course. Methodology of research of the USA's constitutional law as a federative state. Historical periods of development of the constitutional law of the USA. The sources of constitutional law.	The course examines general approaches to the study of constitutional law in the United States, methodological frameworks applied in legal analysis, the evolution of constitutional doctrines, and the role of various sources in shaping constitutional regulation.	S
The Constitution of the USA; constitutions of specific states.	Basic traits of the USA's constitutionalism. Essence and substance of the Constitution of the USA and specific states' constitutional acts. Operation of the constitutions. Amendment of the constitutions, constitutional reforms, historical evolution and prospects of development of the constitutions.	The course examines the structure and functioning of constitutional systems at the federal and state levels, the interaction between different constitutional instruments, and general patterns of constitutional change and development.	S
Constitutional foundations of the USA's economical structure.	Constitutional regulation of the institute of ownership in the USA as a whole as well as specific states. Constitutional regulation of finance. Constitutional basis of environmental protection.	The course examines the legal framework underlying economic relations, the distribution of regulatory powers, and the role of constitutional principles in shaping financial and environmental governance.	S

USA's government and societal structure.	Constitutional regulation of political rights, freedoms and obligations in the USA as a whole and in the specific states. Constitutional status of national minorities in the USA as a whole and in the specific states. Matters of constitutional regulation of socio-cultural sphere in the USA.	The course examines the organization of public authority and its interaction with society, general approaches to the protection of rights, and the role of constitutional norms in regulating social and cultural relations.	S
American federalism.	Major traits and prospects of development of the USA's state system. Citizens' representation in the specific states' and the USA's parliaments. Formation of the supreme chambers. Classification of types of supreme chamber formation orders.	The course examines the structure of federal relations, the allocation of powers between levels of government, and the mechanisms of representation and institutional interaction within a federal system.	S
Elections in the USA.	Constitutional regulation of elections. Elections law and electoral system of the USA. Legal regulation of parties' participation in the elections. Constitutional regulation of referendums in the USA. Other types of civil voting.	The course examines the legal regulation of electoral processes, general characteristics of electoral systems, and the role of political actors in shaping democratic participation.	S
Superior public authorities of the USA and specific states.	Functions, aims and capability of the President of the USA. President and government in the system of supreme public authorities. Constitutional basis for President's liability. Legislative bodies of authority. Formation and structure of legislative bodies. Legislative bodies v political parties. Capabilities of the legislative bodies. Legislation procedure. Legal status of the deputies. Judiciary. Constitutional basis of the judicative authority. Formation, structure and capability of regular and special courts. Basic outline of constitutional judiciary.	The course examines the organization and functioning of the highest public institutions, the distribution of competences, and the interaction between branches of government within the constitutional framework.	S
Public authority within a state:	Local self-government bodies. Local government bodies.	The course examines the structure of governance at	S

governing and local authorities.	Federal v state governing. Prospects of development of the USA's model of municipal system. Regionalism.	the subnational level, the relationship between central and local authorities, and general trends in the development of decentralized administration.	
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\* - to be filled in only for **full**-time training: *LC* - lectures; *LW* - lab work; *S* - seminars.

## 6. CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

*Table 6.1. Classroom equipment and technology support requirements*

Type of academic activities	Classroom equipment	Specialised educational / laboratory equipment, software, and materials for course study (if necessary)
Lecture	A lecture hall for lecture-type classes, equipped with a set of specialised furniture; board (screen) and technical means of multimedia presentations.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board Wi-Fi
Lab work	A classroom for laboratory work, individual consultations, current and mid-term assessment; equipped with a set of specialised furniture and machinery.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board Wi-Fi
Seminar	A classroom for conducting seminars, group and individual consultations, current and mid-term assessment; equipped with a set of specialised furniture and technical means for multimedia presentations.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board Wi-Fi
Computer Lab	A classroom for conducting classes, group and individual consultations, current and mid-term assessment,	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock

Type of academic activities	Classroom equipment	Specialised educational / laboratory equipment, software, and materials for course study (if necessary)
	equipped with personal computers (in the amount of 30 pcs), a board (screen) and technical means of multimedia presentations.	Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board Wi-Fi
Self-studies	A classroom for independent work of students (can be used for seminars and consultations), equipped with a set of specialised furniture and computers with access to the electronic information and educational environment.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board Wi-Fi

\* The premises for students' self-studies are subject to **MANDATORY** mention

## 7. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED FOR COURSE STUDY

### *Main readings:*

1. Избранные конституции зарубежных стран : учебное пособие для бакалавриата и магистратуры / И. А. Алебастрова, В. А. Кикоть [и др.] ; ред. Б. А. Страшун ; Моск. гос. юрид. ун-т им. О.Е. Кутафина (МГЮА). – 2-е изд., перераб. и доп. – М. : Юрайт, 2014. – 852 с.
2. Бернам У. Правовая система США. 3-й выпуск. М.: Новая юстиция, 2006.
3. Василенко И.А. Административно-государственное управление в странах Запада: США, Великобритания, Франция, Германия. Учебное пособие. Изд. 2-е, перераб. и доп. М.: Логос, 2000.
4. Джанда К., Берри Д.М., Голдман Д., Хула К.В. Трудным путем демократии: Процесс государственного управления в США / Пер. с англ. М.: РОССПЭН, 2006.
5. Лафитский В.И. Основы конституционного строя США. М.: Норма, 1998.
6. Лафитский В.И. Правовое регулирование президентских выборов в США. М.: РЦОИТ, 2004.
7. Конституционное право зарубежных стран : учебник / В.О. Лучин, Г.А. Василевич, А.С. Прудников и др.; ред. А.С. Прудников, Г.А. Василевич, В.О. Лучин. - 2-е изд., перераб. и доп. - Москва : Юнити-Дана, 2015. - 727 с. - Библиогр.: с. 720-723 - ISBN 978-5-238-01625-2 ; То же [Электронный ресурс].

### *Additional readings:*

1. Мишин А.А. Конституционное (государственное) право зарубежных стран : учебник для вузов / А.А. Мишин ; Междисциплинарный центр философии права. - 17-е изд., испр. и доп. - Москва : Статут, 2013. - 520 с. - Библиогр. в кн. - ISBN 978-5- 8354-0936-5 ; То же [Электронный ресурс].
2. Медушевский, А.Н. Сравнительное конституционное право и политические институты : курс лекций / А.Н. Медушевский. - 2-е изд. - Москва ; Берлин : Директ-Медиа, 2015. - 734 с. - Библиогр. в кн. - ISBN 978-5-4475-2837-9 ; То же [Электронный ресурс].

### *Internet sources*

1. Electronic libraries (EL) of RUDN University and other institutions, to which university students have access on the basis of concluded agreements:

- RUDN Electronic Library System (RUDN ELS) <http://lib.rudn.ru/MegaPro/Web>
- EL "University Library Online" <http://www.biblioclub.ru>
- EL "Yurayt" <http://www.biblio-online.ru>
- EL "Student Consultant" [www.studentlibrary.ru](http://www.studentlibrary.ru)
- EL "Lan" <http://e.lanbook.com/>
- EL "Trinity Bridge"

2. Databases and search engines:

- electronic foundation of legal and normative-technical documentation <http://docs.cntd.ru/>
- Yandex search engine <https://www.yandex.ru/>
- Google search engine <https://www.google.ru/>
- Scopus abstract database <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/scopus/>

### *Training toolkit for self- studies to master the course \*:*

\* The training toolkit for self- studies to master the course is placed on the course page in the university telecommunication training and information system under the set procedure.

## **8. ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT AND GRADING SYSTEM\* FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' COMPETENCES LEVEL UPON COURSE COMPLETION**

The assessment toolkit and the grading system\* to evaluate the competences formation level (competences in part) upon the course study completion are specified in the Appendix to the course syllabus.

\* The assessment toolkit and the grading system are formed on the basis of the requirements of the relevant local normative act of RUDN University (regulations / order).

### **DEVELOPERS:**

**Head of Department**

position, department

signature

**V.V. Eremyan**

name and surname

**Assistant Professor**

position, department

signature

**N.V. Antsiferov**

name and surname

### **HEAD OF EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:**

**Head of Constitutional Law and  
Constitutional Procedure  
department**

name of department

signature

**V.V. Eremyan**

name and surname

**HEAD  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME:**

**Head of Constitutional Law and  
Constitutional Procedure  
department**

**V.V. Eremyan**

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position, department

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signature

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name and surname