

CASEBRIEFS

The Understanding Video Lecture Series™

**Introduction to Constitutional
Law**

Basis of Law

- Constitutional law, is, quite simply, the study of the United States Constitution, which is the basis for our laws and government.



Separation of Powers and Federalism

- We will discuss how power is separated between the different branches of the federal government under the doctrine of separation of powers, and divided between the federal government and the states under the principles of federalism.

Types of Power

- We will look more closely at judicial power, congressional power, and the power of the executive branch, or president.



Foreign Powers and War Powers

- We will look closely at the powers of the president to deal with foreign relations and war, and how this overlaps with Congressional Power.



Commerce Clause

- We will also look to the history of Congress' most substantial power, the Commerce Clause. We will also examine how this has changed over the years, and the modern approach.

Equal Protection

- We will also look the Constitution's guarantee of Equal Protection of Laws, which means that similarly situated people should be treated equally. We will what is a protected class, and what various standards of review the court might use.

Due Process

- In addition, we will examine the Constitution's protection of Due Process of laws, both substantive and procedural.

Substantive Due Process

- Substantive Due Process protects rights, some fundamental, some not. We will discuss what rights are fundamental, and what standard of review they will receive.

Procedural Due Process

- Procedural Due Process is the guarantee that an individual is given a notice and a hearing, some sort of “process”, before life, liberty or property is taken away by the government
- We will address what types of things constitute “property” and what kind of process is necessary.

First Amendment

- Last, but not least, we will discuss the first amendment guarantee of freedom of speech and religion, and what standards of review are used.

