



# UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΣ

University of Nicosia, Cyprus

<b>Course Code</b> LAW-121	<b>Course Title</b> Constitutional Law I	<b>ECTS Credits</b> 6
<b>Department</b> Law	<b>Semester</b> Fall	<b>Prerequisites</b> None
<b>Type of Course</b> Major Requirement	<b>Field</b> Law	<b>Language of Instruction</b> English
<b>Level of Course</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Cycle	<b>Year of Study</b> 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Lecturer(s)</b> Mr Xenis Xenofontos
<b>Mode of Delivery</b> Face-to-face	<b>Work Placement</b> N/A	<b>Co-requisites</b> None

## Objectives of the Course:

Constitutional Law I is designed to introduce students to the constitutional system of government; to study the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government, and to show the limitations on the exercise of governmental powers. More specifically, this course aims to introduce students to the principles of constitutional law in general and to the British/Cypriot constitutional system in particular to a level which satisfies professional requirements; to encourage independent and critical thought and analysis; to promote skills of group work; and to develop skills of independent reading and research.

## Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Explain the different classifications (including types) of constitution.
2. Assess the notion of the separation of powers and its importance in a modern liberal democratic state.
3. Evaluate the constitutional reforms undertaken by the Labour government of 1997-2010, and the bases for these reforms.
4. Explain the different sources of the UK Constitution, of much importance in light of its unwritten nature.
5. Assess the improvement in municipal rights protection following the passing of the Human Rights Act in 1998.
6. State the different institutions of government, including the roles undertaken by each.
7. Analyse the similarities and fundamental differences between the UK and Cyprus Constitutions.
8. Appraise the public / private law dichotomy.

**Course Content:**

1. General introduction to Constitutional Law.
2. Classification of Constitutions (written and unwritten constitutions; rigid and flexible constitutions; etc);
3. Constitutionalism: limits on the power of governments; organisation of the powers of government;
4. Composition of the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.
5. Introduction to the programme of constitutional reform in the UK; brief introduction to the Human Rights Act.
6. Sources of the British Constitution. legal rules of the Constitution; Acts of Parliament and delegated legislation; legislation / delegated legislation made in the regional assemblies / parliament; the place of European Community law within the system; an introduction to how European Community law is made; basic doctrines of European Community law; introduction to conventions of the Constitution; problems concerning the identification and enforcement of conventions; Query: a written constitution for the United Kingdom?
7. Sources of the British Constitution: legal rules of the Constitution; Acts of Parliament and delegated legislation; legislation / delegated legislation made in the regional assemblies / parliament; the place of European Community law within the system; an introduction to how European Community law is made; basic doctrines of European Community law; introduction to conventions of the Constitution; problems concerning the identification and enforcement of conventions; Query: a written constitution for the United Kingdom?
8. Fundamental principles of constitutional law: the separation of powers and checks and balances; introduction to judicial review of legislation (the US, UK and Cypriot systems compared); the rule of law.
9. The protection of basic rights in the UK: EU Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 (introduction and background); the rights protected; the manner in which the rights are protected; specific legal issues regarding the legislation; comparisons with Cypriot constitutional provisions dealing with human rights.
10. Structures and Institutions: Institutions of government in the United Kingdom: House of Commons and the House of Lords – compositions; functions, reform. Executive power in the UK: powers, accountability; the Executive and the Crown; central Government - PM, Cabinet, ministers, Departments, and the Civil Service.
11. General overview of Cypriot constitutional law and explorations of proposals for the future.

**Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:**

Interactive lectures, tutorials, written examinations and assignments

**Assessment Methods:**

One written assignment, mid-term exam, final exam
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**Required Textbooks/Reading:**

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year
A W Bradley and K D Ewing	Constitutional and Administrative Law, 15 <sup>th</sup> ed.	Longman	2010
Hilaire Barnett	Constitutional & Administrative Law, 8 <sup>th</sup> ed.	Routledge	2010

**Recommended Textbooks/Reading:**

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year
Dennis Campbell (ed.)	Introduction to Cyprus Law, 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.	Yorkhill Law Publishing	2009
Government of Cyprus	Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus 1960	Government of Cyprus	1960