CLASS POLICY: I look forward to your participation in the Constitutional Law Course. It is imperative to closely read the assigned material, to be prepared to discuss in class, and to listen attentively to the class discussion. Computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices are prohibited in the classroom. Last year the Law Faculty voted to require attendance be taken. A class list will be circulated for each class: please put a check by your name indicating that you are present.

Wed, August 26:

Read closely the complete text of the Constitution, including the amendments, IN YOUR TEXTBOOK

Set down in writing ONE personal observation or question that occurs to you from reading the Constitution. Be prepared to state and discuss in class your observation.

A few questions you might want to ask yourself (you are not limited to these suggestions):

1) Surprises! Am I surprised by the inclusion or omission of something?
2) What is the purpose of the Constitution?
3) What key problems does the text of the Constitution seem to be addressing?
4) What other possible schemes might there be?
5) What are some of the issues that are most likely to come up?
6) What are the most important provisions, and why?
7) If the text were being written today, what changes would you anticipate?
8) In this presidential election season, candidates have raised issues criticizing the Constitution and/or the U.S. Supreme Court. What issue(s) does the Constitution’s text provide an answer?

You may handwrite or type your observation. Please hand in at the end of class, and indicate your undergraduate major, and whether you have previously taken a class in Constitutional Law or American Government in college.

Read Introduction pp. 1-10 Course book.

Fri. August 28

Textbook, pp. 11-30; Judicial Review