
HIST 382: American Constitutional History

Dr. Yvonne Pitts

Fall 2020 | Tuesday and Thursday | 12:00-1:15pm



This course explores how fundamental Anglo-Saxon legal theories on justice, republicanism, and economics have been modified by the American experience from 1763-1896. While the course deals with judicial interpretations of the Constitution, it does so in terms of the political and social environments in which the courts operated. The course examines the legal and historical context in which the Supreme Court established major early constitutional interpretations regarding federalism, contractual obligations, and regulation of monopolies. The course then turns to the constitutional debates over sectional strife, slavery, and the coming of the Civil War. Finally, we conclude by exploring the Reconstruction-era amendments and the debates over racial and gender equality.
