UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

Visiting Professor Program
Academic year 2019/2020

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 40 hours

COURSE TITLE

Principles of Constitutional Law

TEACHING PERIOD
2nd term

SCIENTIFIC AREA
Law

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH
English
The Degree Course is entirely taught in English

COURSE SUMMARY
The contents of the concept of constitution.
The Western constitutional tradition: autocracy vs. democracy.
The division of powers as the first means for the limitation and control of public power.
The main forms of government: parliamentary system, presidential system, and semi-presidential system.
Federalism (and regionalism) as the second means for the limitation and control of public power.
The taxonomy of fundamental rights: civil, political and social rights; individual and collective rights; first, second and third generation rights. The rights of non-human beings.
Electoral systems: plurality system; majoritarian system; proportional system.
The nation as the community of citizens vs. the nation as expression of ethnicity.
Systems of constitutional adjudication; competences of constitutional courts.
Non-Western constitutional traditions: East-Asian constitutions; Islamic Constitutions; One-Party Constitutions; African Constitutions.
Post-national constitutionalism: supranational organizations; global governance; cosmopolitan constitutionalism; global economic constitutions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After attending this course unit, the students are expected:

- to have a good knowledge of the main contents of constitutional legal documents, as well as of their characterizing features, such as the form of government, the establishment of the protection of fundamental rights, the electoral system, the definition of the identity of the political community, and the structure of constitutional adjudication;
- to be able to compare constitutional texts on the basis of the above mentioned features;
- to have developed a keen awareness of the existence of different constitutional traditions and of their most specific characteristics;
- to have a sufficient understanding of the most advanced frontiers of constitutionalism within the post-national constellation;
- to be capable of presenting and discussing constitutional legal documents and scholarship;
- to have improved the writing skills in order to draft a short essay on one of the topics of the course unit.

TUTORSHIP ACTIVITIES

Along with more traditional lectures, the course encourages interaction among the students as well as between the students and the lecturers. As a result, it will be characterized by students' presentations and the discussion of constitutional legal texts and scholarship.

The Visiting Professor shall be available to students who intend to prepare papers under his or her supervision, and shall tutor students to introduce them to research methods in the field.

LAB ACTIVITIES

Not applicable.

OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES THE COURSE

The Visiting Professor shall deliver lectures and hold seminars on her/his main research topics to LLM and PHD students to enhance their research skills.

The Visiting Professor shall have the opportunity to present her or his research work to the Faculty in one or more conferences as well as in dissemination conferences also in collaboration with other institutions.

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

The candidate shall have a well-established research experience in the field of public law, in general, and of constitutional law in particular. Her/his expertise should comprise comparative aspects of constitutional law as well as its transnational dimension. Applications by candidates who have already taught to international classes are strongly encouraged. Particular consideration will be given to candidates who have international research experience. The Visiting Professor shall be willing to teach the subject in a collaborative way, jointly with the Professor of the University of Torino who regularly holds the course.

CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT

Sergio Dellavalle

sergio.dellavalle@unito.it