

POL 104: CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

3 Units

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Description

The course, POL 104: Constitutional Development in Nigeria, examines issues relating to the historical evolution of Nigeria's constitution. In this course we will also engage in an analysis of issues and problems in Nigeria's constitutional development from amalgamation in 1914 through colonial rule, the military era to the present. In addition we will have an assessment of the impact of socio-cultural and economic forces as well as other interests and dynamics that informed constitutional amendment, or change over the diverse phases of constitution making in Nigeria. There will be emphasis on issues and contentious provisions of the different constitutions that eventually necessitated change.

Course Requirements

Students offering the course will be expected to meet the minimum requirements of 1. Having a continuous assessment (CA), which will be 40% of the total marks; 2. Writing an examination which will be 60% of the total marks. The CA shall consist of assignments and/or tests. Attendance is mandatory as students with less than 75% attendance will, in line with the University regulation, not be allowed to sit for the examination.

Registration, Assignment Submission Platform

You will be required to register for this course through online registration (through the university portal) in order to offer the course and submit assignments. Failure to register will affect the processing of your result as you will be seen as a student not offering the course.

All assignments will be submitted through the university e-Learning Management System (LMS).

Assignment (10 Marks)

Constitution is important for the consolidation of democracy. However, the making of Nigeria's constitutions have been under two political dispensations that have anti-democracy tendencies, and this has been a great impediment to democratic governance in Nigeria. Examine some of the loopholes in Nigeria's constitutions over the years that have affected democracy in Nigeria.

Deadline for submission of Assignment: 22nd March, 2020

Topics

1. Constitution and Constitutionalism
2. Periods in the making of Nigeria's constitutions and their effects
3. Constitutions under the Colonial Era: 1914 Constitution; Clifford's Constitution, 1922; Richard's 1946 Constitution, MacPherson's Constitution of 1951; 1954's Lyttleton's Constitution
4. Constitutions of the Republics: 1963's First Republic's Constitution; 1979 Second Republic Constitution; 1993 Third Republic Constitution
5. The 1999 Constitution.
6. Constitutional defects and Democratic Governance in Nigeria.
7. The Federal Character Principle in Nigeria's Constitution and the Management of the Plu

Reading List

Temidayo D. and Idowu O (eds), Olaleye's *Salient Issues in Government and Nigeria's Politics*. Ibadan: Hope Publications, 2019.

Ann O'M. Bowman and Richard C Kearney, *The State and Local Government: The Essentials*. 5th Edition (Boston: Wadsworth, 2012).