**Topics of US Constitutionalism**

**Number of lecture hours:** 24 (besides the lectures on Tuesdays, please note that there are also lectures on 4 and 11 May!)

**Evaluation:** final essay

**Lecturers:** Lóránt Csink, Lee Strang (University of Toledo, USA)

**Course description**

The course (also with reference to the appropriate elements of sections 7.1.1. and 8.1.1. of the Law Master qualification requirements) aims at introducing the constitutional system of the United States. It concerns the establishment and development of the USA with special regard to the First Amendment. It considers certain constitutional rights by analysing the case law of the Supreme Court of the United States.

**Outline of the course:**

1. Introduction: Historical antecedents, colonization of America, the American society

2. The establishment of the United States. The Declaration of Independence and plans for the Constitution

3. Court System of the United States

4. Non-discrimination and Equality. Tests for deciding discrimination cases

5. The Second Amendment: the right to bear arms

6. Same-sex marriage in the United States. Different approaches of Europe and America

7. The complimentary constitutional principles of the U.S. Constitution of limited and enumerated powers, and federalism

8. Robust Freedom of Speech: free speech doctrine crafted by the United States Supreme Court over the past century

9. Protecting the Free Exercise of Religion in a Pluralist Country: the Supreme Court's evolving doctrine protecting the free exercise of religion

10.  The Past, Present, and Future of Abortion Law in the United States: This class will cover the history of abortion law in the United States including *Roe v. Wade*, *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*, and *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health.*It will then describe the impact of *Dobbs* on American constitutional law.