**Seminar 1: The UK Constitution**

**Reading**

Required reading:

1. Lisa Webley & Harriet Samuels, *Complete Public Law* (4th Edn, OUP 2018), Chapter 3 [[LINK]](http://www.oxfordlawtrove.com/view/10.1093/he/9780198798064.001.0001/he-9780198798064-chapter-3)

Recommended reading:

1. Vernon Bogdanor, Tarunabh Khaitan & Stefan Vogenauer, ‘Should Britain Have a Written Constitution?’ (2007) 78 (4) The Political Quarterly 499-517 [[LINK]](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/j.1467-923X.2007.00879.x)
2. Jeff King, ‘The Democratic Case for a Written Constitution’ in Jeffrey Jowell & Colm O’Cinneide (eds) *The Changing Constitution* (9th edn, OUP 2019) [[LINK](https://www.oxfordlawtrove.com/view/10.1093/he/9780198806363.001.0001/he-9780198806363-chapter-15?rskey=u1SLPT&result=2)] *OR* watch it here [[LINK](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAqL-v0kOq8&feature=youtu.be&t=293)]
3. David Feldman, ‘None, One or Several? Perspectives on the UK’s Constitution(s)’ (2005) 64 (2) Cambridge Law Journal329-251 [[LINK]](https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/S0008197305006884)

*Optional legal skills reading – How to Read Academic Books and Articles*

1. *James Holland & Julian Webb,* Learning Legal Rules: A Students' Guide to Legal Method and Reasoning *(10th edn, OUP 2019), Chapter 3, Section 3.3* [[LINK]](https://www.oxfordlawtrove.com/view/10.1093/he/9780198799900.001.0001/he-9780198799900-chapter-3#he-9780198799900-chapter-3-div1-27)

**Questions**

Quick Questions:

1. What is a Constitution?
2. Briefly describe the following fundamental features of the UK constitution:
	1. An Unwritten/Uncodified Constitution
	2. A Flexible Constitution
	3. Parliamentary Sovereignty
	4. The Rule of Law
	5. Separation of Powers
	6. Royal Prerogative
	7. Constitutional Conventions
3. What is the hierarchy of sources of law in the UK Constitution?

Essay Question:

1. Should the UK’s current, uncodified, constitution be replaced with a codified constitution? Why or why not?

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this seminar, can you…

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Read and make notes on an academic textbook? |  |
| 2. Understand the subject matter of this seminar, especially: |  |
| * 1. What ‘constitution’ means?
 |  |
| * 1. The core features and principles of the UK constitution?
 |  |
| * 1. The hierarchy of laws in the UK?
 |  |
| * 1. The arguments for and against codification of the UK constitution?
 |  |
| 3. Orally communicate knowledge and criticism of the subject matter? |  |
| 4. Prepare a brief essay plan on a question discussing codification of the UK constitution? |  |

***Remember to test your general knowledge of the subject matter with the Quiz on blackboard.***