Political Science 3130 Civil Liberties & Civil Rights

Fall 2022

Tuesdays

Learning Outcomes & Course Objectives

This course is designed to help students broaden their knowledge, skills, and values so that they will be able to:

Identify the structure and operation of the U.S. Constitution, Supreme Court, and judicial review in the United States.

- o Understand the factual and historical background relating to the development of civil liberties and rights in the United States.
- o Understand the structure of the United States Constitution and its history as it pertains to civil liberties and rights.
- o Understand the structure of the United States Supreme Court and its history as it pertains to civil liberties and rights.
- o Analyze the use of decisions and precedent by the Supreme Court in development of constitutional law.

Distinguish among the diversity of traditions in approaches to civil liberties and rights and constitutional interpretation.

- o Critique and assess scholarly theories and evidence regarding constitutional theories.
- o Understand various methodological approaches used by social scientists to study the civil liberties and civil rights and their impact.
- Apply major theoretical concepts regarding law, religion, and politics to real-world situations.
- SLO 3: Assess evidence and draw reasoned conclusions.
 - o Comprehend and analyze court opinions.
 - o Engage in meaningful and productive dialogue with others.

SLO 7: Evaluate the extent to which social systems influence equity and reflect innate human dignity.

- o Assess the effects of various social and political structures and determine which are more likely to promote equality, justice, freedom, or other values important to them.
- Analyze the cultural-institutional conditions and causes of just and unjust social systems using such concepts as social location, relationships, power, privilege, and vulnerability.
- o Apply such ethical concepts as human dignity, equity, well

o Understand how law can be used as a tool for justice and common good.

Course Materials

Required Textbook

Epstein, Lee and Thomas Walker. 2018. Constitutional Law for a Changing America: *Rights, Liberties, and Justice, Eleventh Edition*. CQ Press. (E&W)

Online / Canvas

Kerr, Orin S. 2007. How to Read a Legal Opinion: A Guide for New Law Students. *The Green Bag* 11(1): 51-63. (OK)

Mahoney Area School District v. B.L. (2021). No. 20-255. Slip Opinion. https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20-255_g3bi.pdf (Mahoney Case)

Dobbs v. (2022). No. 19-1392. Slip Opinion. https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392_6j37.pdf (Dobbs Case)

I will trim down these decisions so that you do not have to read the entire opinions prior to the applicable class. applicable class.

When appropriate, I will supplement these texts with additional readings. I will make these available through eRes.

Requirements and Evaluation

Class Participation & Attendance

Absences

Class participation is an essential part of this class, and, thus, your attendance is very important. If you must miss class for a legitimate reason, such as illness, family emergency, or University-sponsored activity, you should contact me via email as soon as possible (which means at least one hour before the missed class whenever possible). Given the current circumstances, I will be inclined to grant requests for excuses. The mo3(c)4(a)4(bl)]TJ01 r0w0() TJ0r3 s9-3(ional)-199(re)7(a0.ae)7(a)

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late without a legitimate reason. Late penalties are capped at 50% if the late assignment is turned in before the last day of class.

Course Evaluations

Students are required to fill out a course evaluation at the end of the course.

Grading

Your grade for this course will consist of the following components and relative weights:

Type	Item	Grade Value
Verbal	Class Participation On-Call	10% 10%
Briefing	Case Briefing Assignments (4)	20% (5% each)
Opinion Writing	Initial Impressions Opinion (Group Project) Final Impressions	5% 10% 5%
Reflection	Reflection Assignment	5%
Examination	Midterm Final Exam	15% 20%

Barring unusual circumstances, I will provide feedback and grades to you on assignments, on-call days, and exams within one week of you completing the items. In the case of the court assignment, all individual assignments (initial impressions, opinions, and final impressions) will be graded within a week of receiving the final impressions. If for some reason I need longer than one week, I will let you know that is the case and when you can expect the feedback and grades before the week has ended. Regarding Class Engagement, I will provide you with feedback and a grade every three weeks (potentially excluding the midterm week).

Grades will be assigned by the following scale:

Letter
Grade
A
A-
B+
В
В-
C+

ADA Accommodations for Face Mask Requirements

Saint Louis University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment.

Individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical reasons should contact the Office of Disability Services (students) or Human Resources (instructors) to initiate the accommodation

ADA Policy. Inquiries or conc5()-9m2-9(myA)-37ualto bue ire-5(c)4(tec

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https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/ to learn more about tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, and academic coaching.

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments Case Brief Due: Morse v. Frederick
6		Civil Liberties	
	Sept. 27	Speech	E&W 263-285
	Sept. 29	Keep & Bear Arms	

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments
	Oct. 25	Conference	Initial Impressions Due
		Jesse on Vacation	
	Oct. 27	Fall Break	
11		Opinion Assignment	
	Nov. 1	Conference	
		Civil Rights	
	Nov. 3	Discrimination	E&W 515-531
			Opinions Due
12		Civil Rights	
	Nov. 8	Discrimination	E&W 531-556
	Nov. 10	Equal Protection	E&W 557-582
			Final Impressions Due
13		Civil Rights	
	Nov. 15	Equal Protection	E&W 582-605
			Case Brief Due: United States v. Virginia
	Nov. 17	Equal Protection	E&W 605-616
14		Civil Rights	
	Nov. 22	Equal Protection	Readings to be determined.
			Reflection Due

Week	Dates Nov. 24	Topic Thanksgiving Break	Assignments No Class
15		Civil Rights	
	Nov. 29	Voting & Representation	E&W 617-645
	Dec. 1	Voting & Representation	E&W 645-672
16		Final Review	
	Dec. 6	Review	
	Dec. 8	Review	
17		Final	
	Dec. 13	Final Exam	
		6:10 – 8:00 p.m.	