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.

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

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• 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)

<u>I will trim down these decisions so that you do not have to read the entire opinions prior to the applicable class.</u> 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 Universitysponsored 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)JTJ01 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:

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	Торіс	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.	