INTRODUCTION TO CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS
POLS 332I-001
SPRING 2016

FANER HALL 1005
TR, 11:00 – 12:15

PROFESSOR: Comparato
OFFICE: Faner 3142
PHONE: 453-1154

E-MAIL: scompara@siu.edu
OFFICE HOURS: TR, 8:00 – 11:00

COURSE PURPOSE

This purpose of this course is to introduce you to civil liberties in the United States, and to investigate how social and political forces play a role in the development of legal doctrine. We will focus primarily on the First Amendment, though we will also discuss the Third, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendments to a lesser degree. Special emphasis will be placed on evaluating how the United States Supreme Court defines, establishes, and protects these liberties through its interpretation of the Constitution. By the end of the course, you will have a greater understanding of the role of the Bill of Rights in American political and social consciousness, and you will emerge with a clearer picture of how Supreme Court interpretations of key provisions of the Constitution affect our political structure and social relationships.

Another primary purpose of this course is to improve your critical reading, writing, and organizational skills. Toward that end, the written assignments and exams will focus on improving proficiency in those areas. You will learn to brief Supreme Court cases, and exams will evaluate your ability to extrapolate from the cases themselves and construct arguments that demonstrate a knowledge of the concepts behind the cases. In addition, emphasis is placed on classroom participation and critical discussion of the readings.

TEXT


Additional cases and readings will be posted on D2L. These cases are in bold throughout the syllabus.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade will be based on your performance on three exams, case briefs, and course participation.

COURSE WEB PAGE

This course will be managed using D2L (online.siu.edu). You will have access to all course information, including the syllabus, course schedule, reading assignments, resources for your papers, discussion boards, and an email system to contact me or other students in the class. I will regularly post messages regarding the reading, schedule, assignments, and grades to the course page. Therefore, you should make a habit of checking the course page on a daily basis to keep up with reading assignments and other course related announcements. There are numerous computer labs on campus, so access to D2L should not be a problem.

CONTACTING ME

You are always welcome to stop by my office during office hours to discuss questions/issues related to the course or other academic matters. I will do my best to return your call within 24 hours. If you would like a more immediate response, I check my email frequently, and will return messages as promptly as possible. This is a difficult class, and I expect that many of you will encounter problems in completing some of the assignments.
Please take advantage of the opportunity to discuss the course material with me outside of class, particularly if you are having trouble, or would like additional clarification.

When contact me via email, please use appropriate greetings “Dr. Comparato, Mr. Comparato, Professor, etc.” Use appropriate grammar and spelling, and maintain a professional tone. You should also close your message with your name.

**EXAMS (20% EACH)**

As this is an upper level course, I expect you to develop your analytical and writing skills. The test questions are designed to challenge your ability to extrapolate from the information provided in class and in the readings, and also to convey that information in a clear, concise, and effective manner. I expect you to know the material and be able to analyze it critically. If you are unable to take an exam on the day it is scheduled, you will not be allowed to reschedule it for another time, but will instead complete a written assignment on a topic of my choosing to be completed within two weeks of the date scheduled for the missed exam. No student will be allowed to take the final exam prior to its scheduled date. All exams, including the final are non-comprehensive.

**CASE BRIEFS (20%)**

Most of our focus this semester will be on cases decided by the Supreme Court. Briefing will help you to better understand the cases, and make studying for the exams much easier. You are expected to come to class every day having completed all of the reading, and having briefed the appropriate cases for that day’s topic. The briefs should all be saved as a single file and uploaded to the appropriate dropbox on D2L by the date listed. **You must complete all of the cases on the set of briefs to get ANY credit on that assignment.** Partial credit is not awarded for incomplete sets of briefs. Late briefs will not be accepted under any circumstances. I will discuss the proper formatting and content of briefs during the first week of class.

**PARTICIPATION (20%)**

You must be an active member of the class. For many of you, this is the first time you have been exposed to Supreme Court cases, and we will devote a significant portion of class time to the discussion and analysis of those cases. In order to receive credit for this portion of your grade you must show a willingness to engage the material, discussing cases in a critical manner. I expect volunteers to lead discussion on cases that are assigned. I will also call on students to present the facts of the case and to provide an analysis of the Court’s decision. Reading the course material thoroughly and coming to class prepared to discuss cases is expected, and essential to learning the material.

I begin class promptly at the scheduled time. We will make full use of the entire time we are allotted for class. I do not tolerate tardiness. If you have circumstances that dictate chronic absence or tardiness, I strongly suggest that you reevaluate your decision to take this class.

**POLICIES**

Students should behave in a professional and courteous manner at all times. It is essential that students feel comfortable in the classroom, and while disagreement is expected and encouraged, please remain respectful of your fellow students and the professor. Any student behaving in a manner that is in any way disruptive or inappropriate will be removed, and potentially sanctioned as outlined in the University Student Conduct Code. You should also reference the Professor-Student Agreement posted on D2L for additional information regarding the expectations I have of you, and what you should expect from me.

- You are responsible for all material covered in class regardless of the reason for absence.

- You must turn off and stow away all electronic devices (phones, mp3 players, tablets, computers, etc.) during class. Studies have shown that the use of laptops is distracting and leads to lower retention rates and comprehension. Please see the following piece for more information and studies related to the use of...
technology in the classroom: “Why I Just Asked My Students to Put Their Laptops Away.” Should you use an electronic device in class, points will be deducted from your grade at my discretion.

• Students will be assigned seats. You are expected to sit in that seat for the remainder of the semester. This will help to facilitate me learning names and assigning participation credit accurately. Should you have any issues that require you to be closer to the front of the class such as vision or hearing impairments, please contact me immediately so that I may make appropriate accommodations.

• Eating is not permitted during class.

• Make up exams will not be given. If you miss an exam, you will be given an alternative paper assignment.

• Incompletes will not be granted except in the most unusual of circumstances.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

You are responsible for your own work. It is considered cheating to submit someone else’s work as your own. Using information from another source (book, article, internet site, another student, etc.) without properly crediting the author is plagiarism. Direct quotations, paraphrased information, and the general use of another person’s idea must be properly referenced in your work. Specifically, when completing your briefs and exams, make certain that you properly cite direct quotes if taken from the case. The penalty for violations such as plagiarism, cheating, or other misconduct will result in a failing grade in the course, and may result in a formal charge of misconduct as outlined in the [University Student Conduct Code](#), possibly leading to further sanctions, including suspension or expulsion.

If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating and plagiarism, contact the Southern Illinois University office of Academic Advising, or view the [University Undergraduate Catalog](#) for more information.

**DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who require individualized testing or other accommodations should identify themselves to me immediately. Every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. [Disability Support Services](#) can assist you with testing, note-taking, and accessibility issues.

**GRADING**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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**GRADING SCALE (PERCENTAGES)**

- **A** 90 – 100
- **B** 80 – 89
- **C** 70 – 79
- **D** 60 – 69
- **F** 59 – Below
Course Schedule

I. Introduction to the Supreme Court (Week 1)

II. The Bill of Rights (Week 2)

III. Religious Freedom (Weeks 3 – 4)

IV. Free Expression, Assembly, and Association (Weeks 5 – 7)

V. Freedom of the Press (Week 8)

VI. Obscenity and Libel (Week 9)

VII. The Right to Privacy (Week 10)

VIII. Discrimination (Week 11 – 13)

IX. Voting and Representation (Week 14 – 15)

Important Dates

Exam One: Thursday, February 18th
Exam Two: Thursday, March 25th
Exam Three: Thursday, May 12th, 10:15 – 12:15

Class will not meet:

- March 15th – 17th (Spring Break)

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1 I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus as necessary.
IMPORTANT DATES
Semester Class Begins: ............................................. 01/19/2016
Last day to add a class (without instructor permission): .............. 01/25/2016
Last day to withdraw and receive a 100% refund: ..................... 02/07/2016
Last day to drop a course using SalskiNet: .......................... 04/14/2016
Last day to file a disability application (for same to appear in Common Core program): .... 02/05/2016
Final Examinations: ......................................................... 05/09-05/13/2016
Note: For outreach, internet, and short course drop/add dates, visit Registrar’s Academic website: http://register.siu.edu/pdf/gradcatalog1314.pdf

SPRING SEMESTER HOLIDAYS
Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Holiday 01/18/2016
Spring Break 03/07 – 03/10/2016

WITHDRAWAL POLICY – Undergraduate only
Students who officially register for a session may not withdraw merely by the stopping of attendance. An official withdrawal form needs to be initiated by the student and processed by the University. For the proper procedures to follow when dropping classes and when withdrawing from the University, please visit http://register.siu.edu/pdf/gradcatalog1314.pdf

INCOMPLETE POLICY – Undergraduate only
An INC is assigned when, for reasons beyond their control, students engaged in passing work are unable to complete all class assignments. An INC must be changed to a completed grade within one semester following the term in which the course was taken, or graduation, whichever occurs first. Should the student fail to complete the course within the time period designated, that is, by no later than the end of the semester following the term in which the course was taken, or graduation, whichever occurs first, the incomplete will be converted to a grade of F and the grade will be computed in the student’s grade point average. For more information please visit: http://register.siu.edu/grads/incomplete.html

REPEAT POLICY
An undergraduate student may, for the purpose of raising a grade, enroll in a course for credit no more than two times (two total enrollments) unless otherwise noted in the course description. For students receiving a letter grade of A, B, C, or D, the course repetition must occur at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Only the most recent (best) grade will be calculated in the overall GPA and count toward hours earned. See full policy at http://register.siu.edu/pdf/gradcatalog1314.pdf

GRADUATE POLICIES
Graduate policies often vary from Undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, please visit: http://gradschool.siu.edu/about-grad/can-i/index.html

DISABILITY POLICY
Disability Support Services provides the required academic and programmatic support services to students with permanent and temporary disabilities. DSS provides centralized coordination and referral services. To utilize DSS services, students must come to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements. http://disabilitysupportservices.siu.edu/

PLAGIARISM
Student Conduct Code: http://vr.siu.edu/student_conduct_code/
Guidelines for Faculty: http://pvcaas.siu.edu/common_documents/PlagiarismGuide.pdf
MORRIS LIBRARY HOURS
http://www.lib.siu.edu/about

SAFETY AWARENESS FACTS AND EDUCATION
Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: http://safe.siu.edu

SALUKI CARES
The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate, and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students, and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For information on Saluki Cares, (618) 453-3714, or salukicares.siu.edu, http://salukicares.siu.edu/index.html

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES
Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. We ask that you become familiar with the SIU Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) programs. Please reference the Building Emergency Response Protocols for Syllabus attachments on the following pages. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE
SIU contains people from all walks of life, from many different cultures and subcultures, and representing all strata of society, nationalities, ethnicities, lifestyles, and affiliations. Learning from and working with people who differ is an important part of education as well as an essential preparation for any career. For more information please visit: http://www.inclusiveexcellence.siu.edu/

LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES
Help is within reach. Learning support services offers free tutoring on campus and math labs. To find more information please visit the Center for Learning and Support Services website:
Tutoring: http://tutoring.siu.edu/
Math Labs: http://tutoring.siu.edu/math_tutoring/index.html
WRITING CENTER
The Writing Center offers free tutoring services to all SIU students and faculty. To find a Center or Schedule an appointment please visit: http://write.siu.edu/

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
Our office’s main focus is to ensure that the university complies with federal and state equity policies and handles reporting and investigating of discrimination cases. For more information visit: http://diversity.siu.edu/

Additional Resources Available:
SALUKINET: https://salukinet.siu.edu/en/home/displaylogin
ADVICE: http://advisement.siu.edu/
SIU ONLINE: http://online.siu.edu/

Spring 2016 R.O’Reourke