INTRODUCTION TO CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS
POLS 3321-950
J-TERM 2016

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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 and case briefs.

COURSE WEB PAGE

This course will be managed using D2L. You will have access to all course information, including the syllabus, course schedule, reading assignments, discussion boards, and an email system to contact me or other students in the class. I will post information regarding the reading, schedule, and assignments to the course page on a daily basis. Therefore, you should make a habit of checking the course page every day.

CONTACTING ME

Obviously, since this course will be conducted using D2L, the bulk of our contact will be via that medium, but if you wish to speak with me, please feel free to call me in my office. 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 material with me and one another through the email or discussion board options on D2L.
EXAMS (25% 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. The exams will be non-comprehensive, and will consist entirely of short answer and essay questions. You will have two hours to complete each exam on-line. I will provide you with further details regarding the format and content of the exams as they approach.

CASE BRIEFS (25%)

Much of our focus 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. Briefs will be assigned on a semi-regular basis throughout the semester. I will have a schedule of brief assignments posted to D2L for you to reference in planning your semester. **Late briefs will not be accepted.** I will post information regarding the proper formatting and content of briefs during the first week of the semester.

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. [Disabilities Support Services](#) can assist you with testing, note-taking, and accessibility issues.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADING</th>
<th>GRADING SCALE (PERCENTAGES)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>100 points (25%)</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Exam 3</td>
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<td>Case Briefs</td>
<td>100 points (25%)</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>400 points</td>
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COURSE SCHEDULE

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE SUPREME COURT (DECEMBER 16TH)

II. THE BILL OF RIGHTS (DECEMBER 17TH – 19TH)

III. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (DECEMBER 22ND – 24TH)

IV. FREE EXPRESSION, ASSEMBLY, AND ASSOCIATION (DECEMBER 25TH – DECEMBER 29TH)

V. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS (JANUARY 2ND – 5TH)

VI. OBSCENITY AND LIBEL (JANUARY 6TH – 8TH)

VII. THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY (JANUARY 9TH – 12TH)

VIII. DISCRIMINATION (JANUARY 13TH – 15TH)

IMPORTANT DATES

EXAM 1: MONDAY, DECEMBER 29TH
EXAM 2: MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH
EXAM 3: FRIDAY, JANUARY 16TH

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1 I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus as necessary.
IMPORTANT DATES *
Semester Class Begins: 01/20/2015
Last day to add a class (without instructor permission): 01/25/2015
Last day to withdraw completely and receive a 100% refund: 02/01/2015
Last day to drop a course using SakshiNet: 04/06/2015
Last day to file diploma application (for same to appear in Commencement program): 03/13/2015
Final examinations: 5/11–5/15/2015
*For outreach, internet, and short course drop/add dates, visit Registrar’s Academic Calendar page at:
http://tr.util.siu.edu/

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 resource here: http://safety.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) 453-5714, or salukicare@siu.edu, http://salukicare.siu.edu/index.html

SPRING-SEMESTER HOLIDAYS
Martin Luther King, Jr’s Birthday 01/19/2015
Spring Break 03/07–03/13/2015

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 courses and when withdrawing from the University, please visit http://register.siu.edu/academic/calendars/14.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/grades/incompletes.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 F, the course repetition must occur at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Only the most recent (last) grade will be calculated in the overall GPA and count toward hours earned. See full policy at http://register.siu.edu/pdf/curriculum/2014-15.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-us/grad-catalog/index.html

PLAGIARISM CODE
http://www.siu.edu/academicaffairs/academicintegrity/2008/plagiarism.html

MORRIS LIBRARY HOURS
http://www.lib.siu.edu/about

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE
SIU contains people from all walks of life, from many different cultures and sub-cultures, 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

ADVISEMENT:
http://advisement.siu.edu/

SALUKINET: https://salukinet.siu.edu/crs/boma/displaylogin
SIT ONLINE: http://onetel.siu.edu/

Spring 2015 R.O’Reilly