Instructor & Office Hours:
Dr. Susan Johnson
Office: 323 Curry
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-3:15 pm and Thursdays 2-3:45 pm, and by appointment
Email: swjohnso@uncg.edu
PSC dept. phone: (336) 334-5989

Course Catalog Description:
Case-method approach to the most important aspects of constitutional law regarding separation of powers, federalism, and economic regulation. Emphasis on importance of historical eras to the evolution of these cases, and current reassessment.

Student Learning Outcomes:
- To practice the skill of reading and analyzing written judicial opinions.
- To become familiar with the U.S. Constitution and its interpretation by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- To explore the division of power among the federal branches of government.
- To explore the relationship between the federal government and the states.
- To explore individual rights of representative government and economic liberty.

Required Texts:

Recent U.S. Supreme Court cases – on Canvas.

Course Requirements:
Case briefs (best 5 of 6) (20 pts each) 100 pts total
Class participation 20 pts total
Oral briefs 30 pts total
Unit One exam 100 pts total
Unit Two exam 100 pts total
Unit Three exam 100 pts total

Grading Scale:
A+=439-450 pts  C+=349-357 pts  F=267 pts & below
A=417-438 pts  C=327-348 pts
A-=403-416 pts  C-=313-326 pts
B+=394-402 pts  D+=304-312 pts
B=372-393 pts  D=282-303 pts
B-=358-371 pts  D-=268-281 pts

Case briefs:
You will be required to submit a one-page brief for five of the cases of your choice as indicated on the schedule of topics. Case briefs will be due on the date listed on the schedule of
topics. **Late case briefs will not be accepted.** It is up to the student to ensure that at least five case briefs are completed by semester’s end. If a student misses a case brief due to extenuating circumstances, then he or she will be asked to complete one of the upcoming case briefs. In other words, you should plan accordingly and not wait until the end of the semester to turn in the last five case briefs that are due. There are **multiple** opportunities to submit case briefs throughout the semester. DO NOT WAIT until the end and submit the last five (you may risk missing one due to extenuating circumstances). Detailed instructions for writing case briefs will be posted online and/or handed out in class.

**Class Participation:**

Students are expected to regularly attend class and participate in discussion. This means that students should be prepared each class period to be called upon to answer questions relevant to the reading. Quality is more important than quantity in my evaluation of class participation. Class participation may also occasionally consist of assigned discussion questions for the following class period or a pop quiz, at the instructor’s discretion. Class attendance will be included as part of the overall participation grade.

**Oral briefs:**

Oral briefs will be taken into account as part of your overall grade. I will randomly assign selected students to be responsible for providing an overview of the case for the next week’s class periods. (Each student will be assigned the day’s reading roughly twice during the semester). I will call on these students to provide key details about the assigned cases for the day’s reading. It is recommended that these students prepare case briefs for their oral reports to refer to in class. (These will not be handed in for a grade).

**Missed exams**

Students are expected to turn papers in on time and be present to take the exams at their scheduled times. Only in extraordinary circumstances will make-up opportunities exist. Students must notify me PRIOR to the missed exam with a valid excuse and must be prepared to provide credible evidence (such as a written doctor’s note) of the excuse. Excuses for missed exams after the fact will not be allowed, resulting in a failing grade for the missed exam. **It is the instructor’s sole discretion to determine whether or not an excuse is acceptable.**

Make-up exams will be scheduled for the same day, time and place for everyone. I will announce the make-up exam time in class. Students will be allowed to make-up only one (1) exam during the semester.

**Academic Honor Code:**

I expect all students in this course to abide by both the letter and spirit of the university’s academic integrity policy. **Violations of the university honor code will be prosecuted.** The full text of the Academic Integrity Policy can be viewed at: [http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/](http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/)

Specifically pertinent to this course are the following rules:

1. “Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.”
2. “Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise.”

**Do NOT engage in either cheating or plagiarism.** The penalties for both offenses range from the need to re-do assignments to expulsion from the University, depending upon the severity of the cheating or plagiarism offense.

If you have any questions regarding what constitutes either cheating or plagiarism, please see me immediately.
**Classroom etiquette and use of electronic devices:**
Please show respect for your instructor and classmates by being in class on time and by planning to remain in class for the entire class period. Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices during class. **Use of laptop computers is limited to taking notes, not surfing the internet, chatting with others, working on assignments for other classes, or any other similar activities.**

**Students who use laptops to take notes must sit in the front two rows of the classroom.**
Please be on time for class. Wandering in and out of class is distracting to everyone. Excessive tardiness or leaving class early will result in a deduction of the participation grade. Please do not smoke in the classroom (including use of e-cigarettes).

**Assigned Readings/Case briefs:**
Students are expected to complete the assigned reading before class and be prepared to discuss the assigned cases. Case briefs are due at the beginning of class on the date the case is assigned. I will only accept hard copies of case briefs (no emailed briefs). If you miss a brief, you may turn in the next one, but late briefs WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. **Cases that you may brief are indicated on the course schedule in BOLD-FACED type. Oral briefs will be assigned the week prior on Canvas and/or in class.**

**Course schedule:**
Minor adjustments to the reading schedule may be made depending on how quickly material is covered. Students are responsible for keeping up with any schedule adjustments that are announced in class or on blackboard.

**Tentative Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics/ Reading Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/23</td>
<td>Introduction and course overview; briefing cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>The Constitution; Judicial Interpretation (textbook ch. 1, section B); Constitution exercise (in-class activity – bring a copy of the U.S. Constitution or your textbook with you to class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/30</td>
<td>Overview of U.S. judicial system &amp; jurisdiction (chapter 2 sections B-G); Judicial Review – <em>Marbury v. Madison</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/8</td>
<td><em>Medellin v. Texas</em>, <em>Prize cases</em>, <em>Ex Parte Milligan</em>, <em>Korematsu v. U.S.</em></td>
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9/22 Wrap-up and review

9/27 EXAM I

Classic Congressional Powers – McCulloch v. Maryland


10/6 Wickard v. Filburn, Heart of Atlanta Motel v. U.S., U.S. v. Lopez

10/11 U.S. v. Morrison, Gonzales v. Raich


10/18 Fall break


10/25 Wrap-up and review

10/27 EXAM II


11/3 Seminole Tribe of FL v. FL, Alden v. Maine, Nevada Dept of HR v. Hibbs


12/1 Wrap-up and review

12/8 EXAM III (non-cumulative)– 12-2 pm (length of regular class exam)