PSC 320-01: Civil Liberties
Spring 2017
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11-11:50 am
Curry 241

Instructor & Office Hours:
Dr. Susan Johnson
Office: 323 Curry
Office Hours: MWF 9:30 – 10:15 am, and by appointment
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PSC dept. phone: (336) 334-5989

Course Catalog Description:
Case-method approach to issues involving civil liberties and civil rights. Examination of the historical evolution of Supreme Court decisions and evaluation of the Court’s reassessment of previous decisions.

Student Learning Outcomes:
• To practice the skill of reading and analyzing written judicial opinions.
• To become familiar with the Bill of Rights and its interpretation by the U.S. Supreme Court.
• To explore the Court’s treatment of individual liberties, including freedom of religion, free speech, freedom of the press, right to bear arms, and privacy.
• To explore the states’ obligation to provide protections against discrimination.

Required Text:
• Additional Readings on Canvas, as indicated on the schedule of topics. Please print and bring to class or plan to electronically access in class.

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 from the **bold-faced** cases 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. Case briefs will be submitted through Canvas (follow the assignments tab). **DO NOT EMAIL** me your briefs.

**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 cases 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 (all cases for that day, not just the bold-faced cases). 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.

**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. Cases will be submitted through Canvas (click on the assignments tab). If you miss a brief, you may turn in the next one, but late briefs WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. **Cases that you may turn in a written brief for are indicated on the course schedule in BOLD-FACED type.** Oral briefs will be assigned the week prior on Canvas and/or in class. Oral brief participants will be responsible for orally summarizing ALL cases on the schedule for that day.

**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 Canvas.

**Tentative Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics/ Reading Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/18</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/20</td>
<td>ch. 1 - Understanding the U.S. Supreme Court; <em>Marbury v. Madison</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>ch. 2 - Judicial Review (cont’d) and Judicial Power (justiciability): <em>Ex Parte McCardle</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/25</td>
<td>Incorporation - <em>Barron v. Baltimore; Hurtado v. CA, Palko v. CT; Duncan v. LA</em></td>
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</tbody>
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1/27: Free Exercise of Religion - Cantwell v. CT; Sherbert v. Verner

1/30: Free exercise: Wisconsin v. Yoder; Oregon v. Smith

2/1: Free exercise: City of Boerne v. Flores; Establishment: Everson v. Bd. of Educ


2/6: Zelman v. Simmons-Harris; Edwards v. Aguillard

2/8: Lee v. Weisman (on reserve); Town of Greece v. Galloway

2/10: Van Orden v. Perry, Hosanna-Tablor Evangelical Lutheran Church v. EEOC

2/13: Wrap-up and review

2/15: UNIT ONE TEST (Part 1)

2/17: UNIT TWO TEST (Part 2)


2/27: Chaplinksy v. NH, Cohen v. CA

3/1: McCullen v. Coakley, Snyder v. Phelps

3/3: No Class – NCPSA Conference


3/13-3/17: SPRING BREAK


3/24: Wrap-up and review
3/27:  Unit Two Test (part I)
3/29:  Unit Two Test (part II)
3/31:  Right to Bear Arms:  *D.C. v. Heller*; *McDonald* (on reserve)
4/3:   Privacy:  *Griswold v. CT*, *Roe v. Wade*; *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*
4/5 – 4/7:  No Classes – MPSA conference
4/10:  *Lawrence v. TX*; *Obergefell v. Hodges*
4/14  No class – Spring holiday
4/21:  *Reed v. Reed*; *Craig v. Boren*
4/24  *U.S. v. VA*:  *Romer v. Evans*
4/26:  *Loving v. VA*; State Action:  *Shelley v. Kraemer*
4/28:  State action (cont’d):  *Burton v. Wilmington Park*; *Moose Lodge*
5/1:   Wrap-up and review
5/2:   SNOW DAY MAKEUP (if necessary)
5/3   Reading Day
5/10  Unit Three test - 9:00-11:00 AM