POL 469: LAW & SOCIAL CHANGE

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POL 469: M-W-F: 1:00 – 1:50 pm    Office Hours: Tuesday 1-4 pm

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:


COURSE OVERVIEW:
The motivating question for this course is whether or not courts can cause significant social, political, and/or economic change. Often, law related courses focus on the process of judicial decision making or the content of decisions. But in many ways, the most interesting aspect of the judicial process begins after a high court issues its decision. How will lower courts interpret the decision? Under what circumstances will they comply with the decision? How do political actors (legislators, bureaucrats, interest groups, etc) respond? Do individuals directly affected by the decision receive benefits or suffer costs? In what ways will other segments of society respond? We will explore possible answers to these questions using a range of applied examples and with an in-depth examination of the Civil Rights movement in the United States.

GRADING:
Midterm – 30%
Final – 30%
Paper – 40%

Attendance and class participation are not formal components of your grade for the semester. Success in this course is extremely unlikely, however, without attending every class. Borderline grades will be determined by the quality of your overall contribution to the course.

The paper will be due on November 22nd. The assignment will require you to write a 12-15 page paper in which you analyze the impact of a Supreme Court decision. The precise details of the assignment will be given as the semester proceeds, but it is never too early to note that there is a zero tolerance policy in regard to late papers. Also, I will distribute a study guide on October 8th (one week prior to the exam) for the midterm. The midterm will be an in-class exam, and the final will be a take-home exam.
If any conflict (others tests, travel plans, etc.) with the test dates exists, notify me by September 8th. Documentation of the conflict will be necessary, and be advised that allowances will only be given in extreme cases with my discretion. Travel plans for Thanksgiving, for example, are clearly not an emergency. In the case of an occurrence of an unforeseen event that prevents attendance on the test days, the burden is on you to prove the reason for missing the test and to arrange with me an appropriate make-up date. The make-up exam will not be the same as the exam given on the scheduled test date.

Be aware of the following web resources:

Policies against plagiarism, etc.:
http://studpubs.web.arizona.edu/policies/cacaint.htm

Policies against threatening behavior by students:
http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml

Disability Resource Center:
http://drc.arizona.edu/instructor/syllabus-statement.shtml

Course Schedule

August 23 – Introduction

August 25 – Responses to Decisions: Canon & Johnson 1 – 28

August 27 – Dynamic vs Constrained Courts: Rosenberg 9 – 38

August 30 – Dynamic vs Constrained Courts: Rosenberg 9 – 38

September 1 – Impact “Theory”: Canon & Johnson 154 – 189

September 3 – Myth of Rights: Scheingold 3 – 38

September 6 – No Class – Labor Day

September 8 – Myth of Rights: Scheingold 38 – 61

September 10 – Myth of Rights, cont: Scheingold 62 – 79

September 13 – Myth of Rights, cont: Scheingold Ch. 1 – Ch. 5

September 15 – Interpreting Populations: Canon & Johnson 29 – 61

September 17 – Implementing Populations: Canon & Johnson 62 – 91
September 20 – Consuming Populations: Canon & Johnson 92 – 114
September 22 – Secondary Populations: Canon & Johnson 115 – 153
September 24 – Politics of Rights: Scheingold 83 – 96
September 27 – Politics of Rights: Scheingold 96 – 116
September 29 – Politics of Rights, cont.: Scheingold 117 – 148
October 1 – Politics of Rights, cont: Scheingold Ch. 6 – Ch. 9
October 4 – Strategists of Rights: Scheingold 151 – 169
October 6 – Strategists of Rights: Scheingold 170 – 202
October 8 – Strategists of Rights: Scheingold 203 – 220
October 11 – Strategists of Rights, cont: Scheingold Ch. 10 – Ch. 12
October 13 – Catch Up/Review
October 15 – Midterm
October 18 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 3 – 39
October 20 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 39 – 60
October 22 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 61 – 97
October 25 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 98 – 135
October 27 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 135 – 170
October 29 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 171 – 204
November 1 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 204 – 235
November 3 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 236 – 261
November 5 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 261 – 289
November 8 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 290 – 312
November 10 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 312 – 343
November 12 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 344 – 363
November 15 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 363 – 384
November 17 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 385 – 408
November 19 – Civil Rights Movement: Klarman 408 – 443
November 22 – Civil Rights: Rosenberg 39 – 71
November 24 – No Class
November 26 – No Class
November 29 – Civil Rights: Rosenberg 72 – 156
December 1 – Same-Sex Marriage: Rosenberg 339 – 354
December 3 – Same-Sex Marriage: Rosenberg 355 – 419
December 6 – Klarman Conclusion 443 – 468, Rosenberg 420 – 431
December 8 – Catch Up/Review
Final Exam: Due December 14th, 5 pm