

POL 471: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: CIVIL LIBERTIES

Chad Westerland
Office: Social Sciences 321
POL 471 – Fall 2008: M-W: 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Email: cwesterl@email.arizona.edu
Phone: 520 621 5052
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-4 pm

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Lee Epstein and Thomas Walker. 2007. *Constitutional Law for a Changing America: Rights, Liberties, and Justice*. CQ Press – 6th Edition.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

A liberal democracy requires mechanisms for majority rule along with the legal protection of individual rights. In the United States, the judiciary and ultimately the Supreme Court share the responsibility of determining the boundaries of public authority and individual liberty. We will examine Supreme Court decisions in order to understand how the tensions between liberty, equality, and public order have been answered.

GRADING:

Midterm – 40%

Final (non-cumulative) – 40%

Quizzes – 20%

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.

Seven in-class, unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Five will count toward the final grade, and absolutely no make-ups will be allowed. Also, I will distribute a study guide one week prior to the midterm on October 20th and on December 8th for the final exam.

If any conflict (others tests, travel plans, etc.) with the test dates exists, notify me by September 10th. Documentation of the conflict will be necessary, and be advised that allowances will only be given in extreme cases. In the case of an occurrence of an unforeseen event that prevents attendance on the test days, the burden is on the student both 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 25 – Introduction

August 27 – Background, Process & History: E & W: 3 – 48

September 1 – No Class – Labor Day

September 3 – Incorporation of the Bill of Rights: E & W: 71 – 92

September 8 – 1st Amendment: Free Exercise of Religion: E & W: 95 – 123

September 10 – Free Exercise of Religion, cont & Establishment: E & W: 124 – 160

September 15 – Establishment of Religion: E & W: 160 – 185

September 17 –Establishment of Religion: E & W: 185 – 209

September 22 –Freedom of Speech – Standards: E & W: 210 – 244

September 29 – Freedom of Speech – Regulation of Expression: E & W: 244 – 261

October 1 – Freedom of Speech – Regulation, cont.: E & W: 261 – 288

October 6 – Freedom of Speech – Regulation, cont.: E & W: 289 – 313

October 8 – Freedom of Press – E & W: 314 – 346

October 13 – Freedom of Expression – Obscenity: E & W: 347 – 362

October 15 – Freedom of Expression – Obscenity, cont.: E & W: 362 – 380

October 20 – Freedom of Expression – Libel: E & W: 380 – 401

October 22 – 2nd Amendment – E & W: 402-411 / Catch Up/Review

October 27– Midterm

October 29 – 4th Amendment – Search & Seizure: E & W: 475 – 502

November 3 – Search & Seizure, cont – E & W: 502 – 526

November 5 – 5th Amendment & Self-incrimination: E & W: 526 – 548

November 10 – Right to Counsel & Right to a Fair Trial: E & W: 549 – 579

November 12 – 8th Amendment – Cruel & Unusual Punishment: E & W: 579 – 614

November 17 – Right to Privacy: E & W: 412 – 449

November 19 – Right to Privacy, cont: E & W: 450 – 471

November 24 – Civil Rights & Racial Discrimination: E & W: 617 – 647

November 26 – No Class

December 1 – Sexual Orientation Discrimination: E & W: 647 – 686

December 3 – Other Forms of Discrimination: E & W: 686 – 706

December 8 – Affirmative Action: E & W: 706 – 737

December 10 – Catch Up/Review

December 17 – Final Exam (2 – 4 pm)