POL 471: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: CIVIL LIBERTIES

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POL 471: M-W: 3:30 – 4:45 pm    Office Hours: Tuesday 1-4 pm

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

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 on October 13th (one week prior to the midterm) and on December 6th for the final 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. 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 23 – Introduction

August 25 – Background, Process & History: E & W: 3 – 46


September 1 – 1st Amendment: Free Exercise of Religion: E & W: 89 – 124

September 6 – No Class – Labor Day

September 8 – Free Exercise of Religion, cont & Establishment: E & W: 124 – 147


October 18 – Catch Up/Review

October 20 – Midterm

October 27 – Search & Seizure, cont – E & W: 468 – 484

October 29 – Search & Seizure, cont – E & W: 485 – 497

November 1 – 5th Amendment & Self-incrimination: E & W: 497 – 518

November 3 – Right to Counsel & Right to a Fair Trial: E & W: 519 – 545

November 8 – 8th Amendment – Cruel & Unusual Punishment: E & W: 545 – 574

November 10 – Right to Privacy: E & W: 385 – 417

November 15 – Right to Privacy, cont: E & W: 417 – 440

November 17 – Civil Rights & Racial Discrimination: E & W: 575 – 601

November 22 – Civil Rights & Racial Discrimination, cont.: E & W: 601 – 618

November 24 – No Class

November 29 – Sex Discrimination: E & W: 624 – 642

December 1 – Other Forms of Discrimination: E & W: 642 – 659

December 6 – Affirmative Action: E & W: 659 – 689

December 8 – Catch Up/Review

December 15 – Final Exam (2 – 4 pm)