# Political Science 3130 Civil Liberties & Civil Rights

Fall 2022

Tuesdays

# **Learning Outcomes & Course Objectives**

This course is designed to help students broaden their knowledge, skills, and values so that they will be able to:

Identify the structure and operation of the U.S. Constitution, Supreme Court, and judicial review in the United States.

- o Understand the factual and historical background relating to the development of civil liberties and rights in the United States.
- o Understand the structure of the United States Constitution and its history as it pertains to civil liberties and rights.
- o Understand the structure of the United States Supreme Court and its history as it pertains to civil liberties and rights.
- o Analyze the use of decisions and precedent by the Supreme Court in development of constitutional law.

Distinguish among the diversity of insd-3(utii )-207 tnd ppdeisih(s )-70Dibe3(be)4(rtie)3(s a)3nd

o Understand how law can be used as a tool for justice and common good.

#### **Course Materials**

### **Required Textbook**

Epstein, Lee and Thomas Walker. 2018. Constitutional Law for a Changing America: *Rights, Liberties, and Justice, Eleventh Edition*. CQ Press. (E&W)

#### Online / Canvas

Kerr, Orin S. 2007. How to Read a Legal Opinion: A Guide for New Law Students. *The Green Bag* 11(1): 51-63. (OK)

*Mahoney Area School District v. B.L.* (2021). No. 20-255. Slip Opinion. https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20-255\_g3bi.pdf (Mahoney Case)

*Dobbs v.* (2022). No. 19-1392. Slip Opinion. https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392\_6j37.pdf (Dobbs Case)

I will trim down these decisions so that you do not have to read the entire opinions prior to the applicable class. applicable class.

When appropriate, I will supplement these texts with additional readings. I will make these available through eRes.

# **Requirements and Evaluation**

# **Class Participation & Attendance**

#### **Absences**

Class participation is an essential part of this class, and, thus, your attendance is very important. If you must miss class for a legitimate reason, such as illness, family emergency, or University-sponsored activity, you should contact me via email as soon as possible (which means at least one hour before the missed class whenever possible). Given the current circumstances, I will be inclined to grant requests for excuses. The mo3(c)4(a)4(bl)]TJ01 r0w0() TJ0r3 s9-3(ional)-199(re)7(a0.ae)7(a)

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late without a legitimate reason. Late penalties are capped at 50% if the late assignment is turned in before the last day of class.

## **Course Evaluations**

Students are required to fill out a course evaluation at the end of the course.

# Grading

Your grade for this course will consist of the following components and relative weights:

#### **ADA Accommodations for Face Mask Requirements**

Saint Louis University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment.

Individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical reasons should contact the Office of Disability Services (students) or Human Resources (instructors) to initiate the accommodation

ADA Policy. Inquiries or conc5()-9m2-9(myA)-37ualto bue ire-5(c)4(tec

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https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/ to learn more about tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, and academic coaching.

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments Case Brief Due: Morse v. Frederick
6		Civil Liberties	
	Sept. 27	Speech	E&W 263-285
	Sept. 29	Keep & Bear Arms	

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments
	Oct. 25	Conference	<b>Initial Impressions Due</b>
		Jesse on Vacation	
	Oct. 27	Fall Break	
11		Opinion Assignment	
	Nov. 1	Conference	
		Civil Rights	
	Nov. 3	Discrimination	E&W 515-531
			Opinions Due
12		Civil Rights	
	Nov. 8	Discrimination	E&W 531-556
	Nov. 10	Equal Protection	E&W 557-582
			<b>Final Impressions Due</b>
13		Civil Rights	
	Nov. 15	Equal Protection	E&W 582-605
			Case Brief Due: United States v. Virginia
	Nov. 17	Equal Protection	E&W 605-616
14		Civil Rights	
	Nov. 22	Equal Protection	Readings to be determined.
			Reflection Due

Week	<b>Dates</b> Nov. 24	<b>Topic</b> Thanksgiving Break	Assignments No Class
15		Civil Rights	
	Nov. 29	Voting & Representation	E&W 617-645
	Dec. 1	Voting & Representation	E&W 645-672
16		Final Review	
	Dec. 6	Review	
	Dec. 8	Review	
17		Final	
	Dec. 13	Final Exam	
		6:10 – 8:00 p.m.	