Course Syllabus

Instructor Contact

- Instructor: Barry Edwards, J.D., Ph.D. (**About Me (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/pages/about-me)**)
- Office: Howard Phillips Hall 305B (**Where's This? (http://map.ucf.edu/locations/14/howard-phillips-hall-hph/)**)
- Office Hours: Mon 1-4 pm, Wed 1-4 pm, Fri 1-3 pm
- Phone: 407-823-2608
- E-mail: barry.edwards@ucf.edu

Course Information

- Course Name: Constitutional Law I
- Course ID & Section: POS 4603-DW59
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Spring 2016
- Web Only Course

Course Description

Constitutional law addresses the contents of the U.S. Constitution and the interpretation of those contents. We will look at the organization of the United States Government (i.e., the distribution and execution of those powers); and the relations between the Government and persons under its jurisdiction (i.e., under the Bill of Rights). Under the United States' system, the chief problems of constitutional law center on the basic matter of judicial review, on relations between and among the three (3) branches of government, the federal system's distribution of powers between the federal and state governments, and on the restrictions or limitation on government in either procedural or substantive (e.g., due process) contexts. University Course Catalog Description: Development of American federalism and national power, commerce clause, and nationalization of the economy.

Course Prerequisites

ENC 1102 (Freshman Composition II), POS 2041 (American National Government) or consent of the instructor. I encourage you to tak POS 4284 (Judicial Process and Politics) prior to taking this class.

Course Objectives

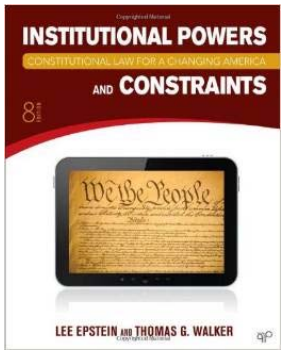
The objective of this course is to introduce you to the important role that the United States Constitution has in orienting American politi and governance. With this end in mind, we will explore the Constitution, its various interpretations, and the role of the judiciary in constitutional application, examples of the influence it has had on the function of government, and the case law that has emanated fro its interpretation. The objectives of this class include the following:

- Understand key constitution terms and concepts
- Understand historically significant Supreme Court decisions
- Analyze historical trends in Supreme Court composition and decision making
- Evaluate and apply constitutional precedents
- Apply legal reasoning to complex hypothetical problems
- Engage in discussion and deliberation of constitutional issues
- Improve writing and critical thinking skills
- Build collaboration skills and practice professional work habits

Required Texts and Materials

Epstein, Lee, and Thomas Walker. 2014. *Constitutional Law for a Changing America: Institutional Powers and Constraints, Eighth*

Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, an Imprint of Sage Publications, Inc. (hereafter "Epstein & Walker"). *Make sure you buy Volu I with the **brown cover** (see image below) not Volume II with the blue cover.** **See on Amazon** **(http://www.amazon.com/Constitutio Law-Changing-America-Institutional/dp/1452226768/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1440526752)** .



Additional readings will be announced and/or distributed in class. In particular, these readings will focus on rulings from the most recer Supreme Court term(s) and emerging issues in constitutional law.

Course Requirements

Your final grade is based on the following components:

1. **Module Quizzes** (40%) – Each numbered module contains a quiz which include multiple choice, true false questions, and a short answer question. Your lowest module quiz score will be dropped.
2. **Module Review Exercises** (10%) – Each numbered module contains one or more graded review exercises, such as crossword puzzles, matching games, etc. Your lowest two module review exercise scores will be dropped.
3. **Small Group Discussions** (5%) - Each numbered module includes a small group discussions. These discussions provide studen the opportunity to review potential quiz questions together like study groups.
4. **Court Simulation One** (15%) – Students will participate in a week long simulation of Supreme Court decision making. The simulation will required to work individually as well as in collaboration with other students in the class and will be graded on both th individual work as well as the group product. Simulation One will focus on institutional powers.
5. **Court Simulation Two** (15%) – Students will participate in a week long simulation of Supreme Court decision making. The simulation will required to work individually as well as in collaboration with other students in the class and will be graded on both th individual work as well as the group product. Simulation Two will focus on nation-state relations.
6. **Final Exam** (15%) – The Final Examination is cumulative and will require students to apply their understanding of the subject matt in a comprehensive manner. Students can expect a mix of multiple choice and true-false questions on the Final Exam.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Make-up work will only be allowed for official University activities or personal emergencies. Written documentation is required. Make- assessments may be different. There is an extra credit module that covers recent Supreme Court decisions related to institutional powers and constraints. The bonus module opens after you complete the Final Exam; it allows you to add up to 5% to your overall course grade.

Late Work

Completing all your work by the specified dues dates is important to your success in this class. Late work will be penalized. Your scor on late work will be reduced 10% per day late. For example, if receive a score of 9 our of 10 on a quiz two days after it was due (i.e. y took a quiz due Sunday on Tuesday instead), your score will be reduced 20%, so you will receive a 7.2 out of 10 on that quiz. You will receive no credit for work complete ten or more days after its due date. However, because modules unlock only after your have completed prior modules, so you will still need to finish your work (for no credit) to complete this class.

Grading Scale

>=93	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	<=59
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

Course grades are rounded to the nearest integer; thus, an overall numeric grade of 89.5% rounds to 90 and an A- letter grade.

Grades of "Incomplete"

Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the “I” will automatically be recorded as an “F” on your transcript.

Group Work Policy

This course requires both individual and group work. You are welcome to discuss course material with other students, but you are responsible for your own work where indicated. Module review exercises and module quizzes are individual assignments. There will two Supreme Court Simulations in this class and parts of these simulations involve group work.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the **Office of Student Conduct (http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/faq#students)** for further action. See the **UCF Golden Rule (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/)** for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone. See **Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Citations (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/pages/academic-integrity-plagiarism-and-citations)** fo additional information and answers to frequently asked questions.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consulta will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, **visit the UWC website (http://www.uwc.ucf.edu)**, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

You do not need to come to the UCF campus to receive help from a trained writing tutor. As a UCF student, you have access to writin tutors at the UCF Online Writing Center. You can **schedule an online consultation (http://uwc.ucf.edu/schedule.php)** with a writing tutor. You can get the help you need to complete the Final Report of your Civic Engagement Project online at a time convenient to you This service is free to you.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus i available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with **Student Disabi Services (http://www.sds.ucf.edu/)**, Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-pa software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please

contact your instructor.

Financial Aid Requirement

As of Fall, 2014, all faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to documen that you began this course, please ***complete the the Syllabus Quiz by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possibl after adding the course***. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Date	Details	
Mon Jan 11, 2016	UCF Classes Begin (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192609&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
	Quiz: SOL in the Court System (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269519)	due 11:30
	Syllabus Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269521)	due 11:30
Thu Jan 14, 2016	Small Group Discussion: Module 1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270962)	due 11:59
Fri Jan 15, 2016	Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4273089)	due 5:59
Sun Jan 17, 2016	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 1-10, 699-710 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192602&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
	Articles or Constitution? Pick One (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269557)	due 11:59
	Introduction to U.S. Constitution Jeopardy (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269566)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 1/2: Intro. to the U.S. Constitution (MCTF) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269533)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 2/2: Intro. to the U.S. Constitution (SA) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270536)	due 11:59
Thu Jan 21, 2016	Small Group Discusion: Module 2 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4271969)	due 11:59
Sun Jan 24, 2016	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 11-48 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192603&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
	Crossword Puzzle: U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269560)	due 11:59
	Identify Warren Court Members (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269565)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 1/2: Understanding the U.S. Supreme Court (MCTF) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269523)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 2/2: Understanding the U.S. Supreme Court (SA) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270755)	due 11:59
Thu Jan 28, 2016	Small Group Discusion: Module 3 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4271982)	due 11:59
Sun Jan 31, 2016	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 57-119 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192600&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
	Constraints on Judicial Power Hangman (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054	due

Date	Details	
	/assignments/4269558)	11:59
	Matching Quiz: Judiciary Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269574)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 1/2: Judicial Powers and Constraints (MCTF) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269524)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 2/2: Judicial Powers and Constraints (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270756)	due 11:59
Thu Feb 4, 2016	Small Group Discusion: Module 4 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4272008)	due 11:59
Sun Feb 7, 2016	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 120-182 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192601&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
	Identify Burger Court Members (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269563)	due 11:59
	Matching Quiz: Legislative Powers Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269575)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 1/2: Legislative Powers and Constraints (MCTF) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269531)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 2/2: Legislative Powers and Constraints (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270757)	due 11:59
Thu Feb 11, 2016	Small Group Discusion: Module 5 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4272009)	due 11:30
Sun Feb 14, 2016	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 183-256 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192598&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
	Matching Quiz: Executive Powers Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269570)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 1/2: Executive Powers and Constraints (MCTF) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269535)	due 11:59
	Presidential Powers: Pick One (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269579)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 2/2: Executive Powers and Constraints (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270759)	due 11:59
Mon Feb 15, 2016	Simulation 1: Groups Assigned (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192593&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
Thu Feb 18, 2016	Small Group Discusion: Module 6 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4272010)	due 11:30
Sun Feb 21, 2016	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 257-322 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192599&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
	Identify Rehnquist Court Justices (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269564)	due 11:59
	Matching Quiz: SOP in Action Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269576)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 1/2: Separation of Powers in Action (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269528)	due 11:59

Date	Details	
	Simulation 1: Planning Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269536)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 2/2: Separation of Powers in Action (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270760)	due 11:59
Mon Feb 22, 2016	Simulation 1: Hypothetical Released via Announcement (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192592&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
Thu Feb 25, 2016	Simulation 1: Post Your Own Memo. & Discuss Case (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269537)	due 11:30
Sun Feb 28, 2016	Simulation 1: Upload Your Group's Opinion(s) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269580)	due 11:59
Thu Mar 3, 2016	Small Group Discusion: Module 7 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4272012)	due 11:59
Sun Mar 6, 2016	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 323-391 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192596&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
	Federalism Hangman: Name that State (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269562)	due 11:59
	Matching Quiz: Federalism Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269572)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 1/2: Federalism (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269525)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 2/2: Federalism (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270761)	due 11:59
Mon Mar 7, 2016	UCF Spring Break Starts (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192611&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
Thu Mar 10, 2016	Small Group Discusion: Module 8 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4272013)	due 11:59
Sun Mar 13, 2016	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 392-482 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192597&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
	Federal Commerce Power: Pick True or False (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269561)	due 11:59
	Matching Quiz: Federal Commerce Power Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269571)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 1/2: Federal Power to Regulate Commerce (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269527)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 2/2: Federal Power to Regulate Commerce (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270762)	due 11:59
Thu Mar 17, 2016	Small Group Discusion: Module 9 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4272014)	due 11:59
Sun Mar 20, 2016	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 503-515, 522-549 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192589&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
	Matching Quiz: Federal Tax and Spending Power Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269573)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 1/2: Federal Powers to Tax and Spend (MCTF) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269526)	due 11:59

Date	Details	
	Tax Terminology Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269583)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 2/2: Federal Powers to Tax and Spend (SA) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270763)	due 11:59
Mon Mar 21, 2016	Simulation 2: Groups Assigned (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192591&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
Wed Mar 23, 2016	UCF Withdrawal Deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192612&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
Thu Mar 24, 2016	Small Group Discusion: Module 10 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4272016)	due 11:30
Sun Mar 27, 2016	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 482-502, 515-522, 550-564 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192588&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
	Matching Quiz: State Power to Tax and Regulate Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269577)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 1/2: State Powers to Regulate Commerce, Tax, and Spend (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269534)	due 11:59
	Simulation 2: Planning Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269538)	due 11:59
	State Power: Pick True or False (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269582)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 2/2: State Powers to Regulate Commerce, Tax, and Spend (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270764)	due 11:59
Mon Mar 28, 2016	Simulation 2: Hypothetical Released via Announcement (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192590&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
Thu Mar 31, 2016	Simulation 2: Post Your Own Memo. & Discuss Case (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269539)	due 11:30
Sun Apr 3, 2016	Simulation 2: Upload Your Group's Opinion(s) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269581)	due 11:59
Thu Apr 7, 2016	Small Group Discusion: Module 11 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4272017)	due 11:30
Sun Apr 10, 2016	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 567-605 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192595&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
	Contract Clause: Pick True or False (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269559)	due 11:59
	Matching Quiz: Contract Clause Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269568)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 1/2: The Contract Clause (MCTF) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269522)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 2/2:The Contract Clause (SA) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270767)	due 11:59
Thu Apr 14, 2016	Small Group Discusion: Module 12 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4272018)	due 11:30
Sun Apr 17, 2016	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 606-662 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192604&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12

Date	Details	
	Matching Quiz: Economic Substantive Due Process Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269569)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 1/2: Economic Substantive Due Process (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269516)	due 11:59
	Who Prevailed: Government or Business? (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269585)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 2/2: Economic Substantive Due Process (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270770)	due 11:59
Thu Apr 21, 2016	Small Group Discusion: Module 13 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4272024)	due 11:30
Sun Apr 24, 2016	Read Epstein & Walker, pp. 663-696 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192594&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
	Matching Quiz: Takings Clause Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269578)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 1/2: The Takings Clause (MCTF) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269518)	due 11:59
	Who Prevailed: Government or Property Owner? Pick One (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269586)	due 11:59
	Module Quiz, Pt. 2/2: The Takings Clause (SA) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4270785)	due 11:59
Tue Apr 26, 2016	UCF Classes End (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192613&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12
Sun May 1, 2016	POS 4603 Final Exam, Spring 2016 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269520)	due 11:30
Sun May 8, 2016	Matching Quiz: 2014/15 U.S. Supreme Court Decisions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269567)	due 11:30
	Module Quiz: Updates from 2014/15 Term of the U.S. Supreme Court (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269532)	due 11:30
	Who Nominated Current Supreme Court Justices? (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167054/assignments/4269584)	due 11:30
Mon May 9, 2016	Grades Due to UCF (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192614&include_contexts=course_1167054)	12