University of Central Florida
Politics and Civil Rights
POS 4622 | Section 1 | Fall - 2017
Tuesday and Thursday, 3-4:15 pm (3 credit hours)
BA, Room 0213

Instructor: Dr. Lynne Gleiber
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Office hour: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-2:30 pm and by appointment
Howard Phillips Hall, Room 302N

Course Description

This course will examine civil rights in the context of political behavior, political institutions, and public policy since 1865 in addition to the historical context prior to 1865. It addresses fundamental question concerning equality related to race, gender, immigration status, economic status, voting, and sexual orientation. Students will be assigned required readings posted on webcourses and from the required text book which will need to be completed in order to be prepared for class. Attendance is mandatory.

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete the course will have obtained:

- Knowledge of the origins of inequality in the United States
- Knowledge of legislation, Supreme Court decisions and movements meant to increase equality
- Knowledge of the processes and procedures employed by the Supreme Court
- Understanding of situations that gave rise to action taken to secure Civil Rights
- Understanding of the difference between Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Course Requirements

All students are expected to arrive on time. Cell phones or other communications devices must be turned off or silenced and put away while in class. Students are expected to contribute to class discussions. Work assignments must be completed before class.

Required readings

- **Text book:** *Constitutional Law for a Changing America; Rights, Liberties, and Justice,* Epstein, Lee and Thomas G. Walker, 9th Edition.
- **Articles and book excerpts:** All readings that are not part of the text book above will be posted to webcourses. They are also required reading assignments

Grading Distribution

Final grades will be composed as follows:

Examination 1	30%
Examination 2	30%
Group assignment	10%
Final Examination	30%

Examinations, Group Project and Grading
Three in-class exams will be given: two during the semester and one final exam. Questions will be based on information covered in the textbook, articles, and book excerpts as well as material presented during class lectures, presentations, and discussions. A group assignment will take the form of construction of a timeline detailing events of an area of Civil Rights such as equality in voting or for a group of individuals such as equality for women. Detailed instructions and group assignments will be discussed during the second week of the semester. The dates for all exams and the group assignment are listed in the course schedule below.

In the interest of fairness to all students, extra credit work will not be given. Make-up exams will not be given (with the exception of cases involving documented emergencies). It is the responsibility of the student to contact me (by telephone, voice mail or e-mail) before or immediately after the missed exam to inform me that an emergency has occurred. Students must arrive on time to take exams. No student will be allowed to begin an exam once other students have finished and left the exam room.

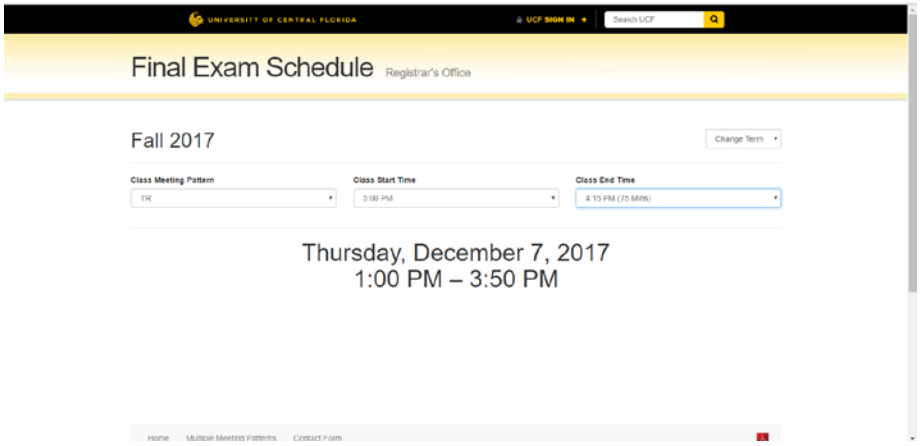
Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. For clarification of what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/ . Students are Violations of the rules addressing academic integrity stated in The Golden Rule will result in documentation of the infraction and a grade of zero for the work in question. Confirmation of academic dishonesty an also result in expulsion from the University of Central Florida.

Attendance and Withdrawal
Students are expected to attend all classes and are responsible for withdrawing from the course if he or she decides not to complete it. Students who discontinue attending class, and do not withdraw will fail the course.

Special Needs
The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from me for the course. Once Student Disability Services has been contacted, I am happy to make any arrangements needed by my students.

Course Plan
The following is a schedule of readings, exams, and assignments for the course. Adjustments or changes may be made if necessary. Please note that if classes are suspended for any reason,

students should still adhere to the dates of readings and assignments listed below unless advised to do otherwise.

Course Schedule	
Part 1 The Need for Civil Rights	
22-Aug	Introduction to the Course
24-Aug	C. Wright Mills, *The Power Elite* 3-29
29-Aug	In-class viewing of *Africans in America: Indentured Servants*
31-Aug	The Need for Civil Rights among groups in America Indentured Servants, Latino Americans, Asian Americans (webcourses); Group project: instructions and group assignments
Part 2 Functioning of the Supreme Court	
5-Sep	Epstein and Walker (E&W): The Supreme Court and the Constitution; pp. 3-9 and Understanding the US Supreme Court; 10-22
7-Sep	(E&W): Understanding the US Supreme Court cont.; 22-43
12-Sep	(E&W): The Judiciary: Institutional Powers and Constraints; 45-65
14-Sep	(E&W): Incorporation of the Bill of Rights; 66-87
19-Sep	Exam 1
Part 3 Racial Equality	
21-Sep	*The Scar of Race*; Chs. 1 & 2(webcourses)
26-Sep	(E&W): 601-608 and 609-619
28-Sep	(E&W): 619-626
3-Oct	*Ethic and Politics*; 285-304 (webcourses)
5-Oct	(E&W): 637-669
	Part 4 Gender and Sexual Orientation Equality
10-Oct	*Women Race and Class*; Chs. 3 & 4 (webcourses)
12-Oct	*Why We Lost the ERA*; Chs. 1-3 (webcourses)
17-Oct	(E&W): 669-688
19-Oct	(E&W): 688-694
24-Oct	Exam2
Part 5 Economic Status and Immigration Status	
26-Oct	*Poor People's Movements; Why they succeed, how they fail*: Ch. 2 (webcourses)
31-Oct	*Born in the Country*: Ch. 10 (webcourses)
2-Nov	(E&W): 694-706
7-Nov	(E&W): 706-716
Part 6: Voting and Representation	
9-Nov	(E&W): 717-737 (Timelines are due)
14-Nov	García Bedolla, L. and M. R. Michelson. 2009. "What Do Voters Need to Know? Testing the Role of Cognitive Information in Asian American Voter Mobilization." American Politics Research 37 (2): 254-274. (webcourses)

16-Nov	Alvarez, R. M. and L. García Bedolla. 2003. "The Foundations of Latino Voter Partisanship: Evidence from the 2000 Elections." *Journal of Politics* 65 (1): 31-49. (webcourses)
21-Nov	(E&W): 741-768
23-Nov	Thanks Giving Day: Class does not meet.
28-Nov	Presentations
30-Nov	Presentations and review for Final Exam
7-Dec	**Final Exam begins at 1pm (Students arriving after others have finished and left the room will not be able to take the exam)**