Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights & Civil Liberties

Department of Political Science, College of Sciences at the University of Central Florida

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

- Course Name: Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- Course ID & Section: POS 4604-17W59
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Spring 2017
- Web Only Course

Course Description

Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties examines the protections afforded individuals by the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution. This is an online only course. The course material is organized into numbered modules to be completed sequentially. Students can complete some assignments at their own pace, but should participate in regular small group discussion at roughly the same time as other students in the class. University Course Catalog Description: Development of civil liberties and civil rights in the American federal system.

Please read this syllabus carefully. When you've finished reading this syllabus, you can start with the "Start Here" module (there's a link to it at the bottom of the syllabus) The Start Here module includes a Syllabus Quiz and you must score 5/5 on it to unlock numbered modules.

Course Prerequisites

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

Course Objectives

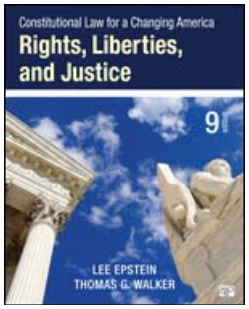
The objective of this course is to introduce you to the important role that the United States Constitution has in orienting American politics and governance. With this end in mind, we will explore the Constitution, its various interpretations, and the role of the judiciary in constitutional application, examples of the influence it has had on the function of government, and the case law that has emanated from 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. 2016. *Constitutional Law for a Changing America: Rights, Liberties, and Justice, Ninth Edition.* Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, an Imprint of Sage Publications, Inc. (hereafter "Epstein & Walker"). *Make sure you buy the textbook with the **blue cover** (see image below) not similarly titled textbook with the brown cover.** **See on Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/Constitutional-Law-Changing-America-Liberties/dp/1483384012/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1480513569)** .



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

Course Requirements

Your final grade is based on the following components:

1. **Module Quizzes** (50%) – Each numbered module contains a quiz which includes multiple choice, true false questions, and a short answer question. Your lowest module quiz score will be dropped.
2. **Module Review Exercises** (15%) – Each numbered module contains one or more graded review exercises, such as crossword puzzles, matching games, etc. Your lowest module review exercise score will be dropped.
3. **Small Group Discussions** (15%) – Each numbered module includes a small group discussion of a constitutional problem or issue. Each student will be assigned to a small group of 5-6 students. Your lowest small group discussion score will be dropped.
4. **Final Exam** (20%) – The Final Examination is cumulative and will require students to apply their understanding of the subject matter in a comprehensive manner. Students can expect a mix of multiple choice and true-false questions on the Final Exam.

Workload Expectations

This is a three credit hour class. The workload expectation per credit hour is set forth in the **UCF Catalog, Registration Policies, Terms and Credit Hours (http://catalog.ucf.edu/policies/registration-policies#Terms_and_Credit_Hours)** , which states the amount of work represented by one credit hour is not less than "One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week [or equivalent work in internship, directed readings, etc.] for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time." In an online class, you make up for hours of class time on your own. This means *you are expected to work at least 9 hours per week on this class in a regular Fall or Spring Semester* or 18 hours per week on this class in an abbreviated Summer Term.

This class does not take a week off for Spring Break during Spring 2017 in order to fit the final exam schedule. If you have a trip planned, I strongly encourage you to work ahead so this class won't interfere with your plans.

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-up assessments may be different. There are no extra credit assignments.

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 score 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. you

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

A	100%	to 92.5%
A-	< 92.5%	to 89.5%
B+	< 89.5%	to 86.5%
B	< 86.5%	to 82.5%
B-	< 82.5%	to 79.5%
C+	< 79.5%	to 76.5%
C	< 76.5%	to 72.5%
C-	< 72.5%	to 69.6%
D+	< 69.6%	to 66.5%
D	< 66.5%	to 62.5%
D-	< 62.5%	to 59.5%
F	< 59.5%	to 58.0%

Any missing assignments are treated as 0 scores for the purposes of calculating final course grades.

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

There are no group projects in this class. You are welcome to discuss course material with other students, and expected to discuss constitutional problems and issues with your small group, but you are responsible for your own 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** for 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 consultant 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://uwc.cah.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 writing tutors at the UCF Online Writing Center. You can **schedule an online consultation (http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/schedule-a-consultation/)** 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 is 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 Disability 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-party 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 document that you began this course, please ***complete the the Syllabus Quiz by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course***. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

START HERE MODULE

Assignments Summary:

Date	Details	
Mon Jan 9, 2017	UCF Classes Start (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363482&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Syllabus Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069767)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 11, 2017	Review Exercise: Supreme Court Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069798)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 12, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069784)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 13, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363468&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069765)	due by 11:59pm
	Try the Practice Quiz: Introduction to U.S. Constitution and U.S. Supreme Court (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069746)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Sun Jan 15, 2017	Module Quiz: Introduction to U.S. Constitution and U.S. Supreme Court (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069763)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 18, 2017	Review Exercise: Judicial Review and Incorporation Doctrine Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069796)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 19, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 2 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069783)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 20, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 2 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363467&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Try the Practice Quiz: Judicial Review and the Incorporation Doctrine (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069738)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 22, 2017	Module Quiz: Judicial Review and the Incorporation Doctrine (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069742)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 25, 2017	Review Exercise: Free Exercise Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069793)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 26, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 3 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069782)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 27, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 3 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363473&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Try the Practice Quiz: Free Exercise of Religion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069750)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 29, 2017	Module Quiz: Free Exercise of Religion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069769)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 1, 2017	Review Exercise: Establishment Clause Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069790)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 2, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 4 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069781)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 3, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 4 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363472&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Try the Practice Quiz: The Establishment Clause (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069737)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 5, 2017	Module Quiz: The Establishment Clause (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069752)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 8, 2017	Review Exercise: Development of Free Speech Standards Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069789)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 9, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 5 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069780)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 10, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 5 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363474&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Try the Practice Quiz: Freedom of Expression: Development of Standards (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069768)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 12, 2017	Module Quiz: Freedom of Expression: Development of Standards (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069764)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 15, 2017	Review Exercise: Free Speech Content and Context Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069794)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Thu Feb 16, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 6 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069779)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 17, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 6 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363470&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Try the Practice Quiz: Freedom of Expression: Content and Contexts (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069747)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 19, 2017	Module Quiz: Freedom of Expression: Content and Contexts (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069758)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 22, 2017	Review Exercise: Boundaries of Free Speech Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069786)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 23, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 7 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069778)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 24, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 7 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363469&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Try the Practice Quiz: The Boundaries of Free Expression (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069755)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 26, 2017	Module Quiz: The Boundaries of Free Expression (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069741)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 1, 2017	Review Exercise: Freedom of Press and New Media Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069792)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 2, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 8 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069777)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 3, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 8 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363471&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Try the Practice Quiz: Freedom of the Press and New Media Regulations (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069744)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 5, 2017	Module Quiz: Freedom of the Press and New Media Regulations (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069751)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 8, 2017	Review Exercise: Right to Privacy Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069797)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 9, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 9 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069776)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 10, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 9 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363466&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Try the Practice Quiz: The Right to Privacy (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069757)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 12, 2017	Module Quiz: The Right to Privacy (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069743)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 15, 2017	Review Exercise: Investigations and Evidence Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069795)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 16, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 10 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069775)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 17, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 10 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363465&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am

Date	Details	
	Try the Practice Quiz: Rights of the Accused: Investigations and Evidence (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069760)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 19, 2017	Module Quiz: Rights of the Accused: Investigations and Evidence (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069766)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 22, 2017	UCF Withdrawal Deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363484&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Review Exercise: Attorneys, Trials, and Punishments Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069785)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 23, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 11 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069774)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 24, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 11 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363464&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Try the Practice Quiz: Rights of the Accused: Attorneys, Trials, and Punishments (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069748)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 26, 2017	Module Quiz: Rights of the Accused: Attorneys, Trials, and Punishments (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069739)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 29, 2017	Review Exercise: Foundations of Equal Protection Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069791)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 30, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 12 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069773)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 31, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 12 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363463&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Try the Practice Quiz: Foundations of Equal Protection (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069759)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 2, 2017	Module Quiz: Foundations of Equal Protection (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069753)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 5, 2017	Review Exercise: Development of Equal Protection Standards Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069788)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 6, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 13 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069772)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 7, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 13 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363462&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Try the Practice Quiz: Development of Equal Protection Standards (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069754)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 9, 2017	Module Quiz: Development of Equal Protection Standards (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069762)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 12, 2017	Review Exercise: Contemporary Equal Protection Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069787)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 13, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 14 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069771)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 14, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 14 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363461&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am

Date	Details	
	Try the Practice Quiz: Contemporary Equal Protection Issues (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069749)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 16, 2017	Module Quiz: Contemporary Equal Protection Issues (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069745)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 19, 2017	Review Exercise: Voting Rights and Representation Cases (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069799)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 20, 2017	Study Group Discussion: Question for Module 15 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069770)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 21, 2017	Reminder: Replies Due in Small Group Discussion of Module 15 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363460&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
	Try the Practice Quiz: Voting Rights and Representation (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069740)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 23, 2017	Module Quiz: Voting Rights and Representation (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069756)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 24, 2017	Last Day of UCF Classes (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363483&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am
Sun Apr 30, 2017	POS 4604 Final Exam (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1248993/assignments/5069761)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 5, 2017	Grades Due to UCF (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1363485&include_contexts=course_1248993)	12am