

Eastern Michigan University Department of Political Science  
PLSC 215 - Civil Rights and Liberties in a Diverse United States  
Winter Term, 2016  
January 6 - April 28, 2016

Instructor: Kathy Peterson, JD, Attorney at Law  
PLSC 215 - Sec 00/CRN 21473 - M and W - 11:00 - 12:15 p.m. in 203 Porter  
E-Mail: "kpeters6@emich.edu" Office: 601H Pray-Harrold/ Phone: 487-3113  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**Required Texts:**

- \*Monk, Linda. *The Words We Live By*. The Stonesong Press/Hyperion. (2003)
- \*Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow*.
- \*A copy of The United States Constitution

**Course Objectives:** This course will explore the history and sources of civil rights in the United States, with a particular focus on the period in U.S. history from 1963 - 1974 including the Civil Rights movement, the Black Power Movement, the Anti-War movement, the American Indian Movement, the Feminist Movement and the LGBTQ Rights Movement. In a diverse society, there are competing interests that both inform and resist the creation of civil rights and liberties. This course will examine the core constitutional values in our American democracy, and how they have shaped the development of civil rights and liberties for American citizens. The roles of the people, the courts, Congress and the political system in the development of civil rights will be studied in this class.

**Grade Requirements:** Your final grade in this class will be based upon:

Best 5 of 7 In Class Response Quizzes	= 50 points
Three Exams (50 points each)	= 150 points
	<b>Total = 200 points</b>

Your in-class response quizzes will be based upon DVD presentations and your reading assignments. The two lowest quiz scores will be dropped from your final grade. If you miss a class when a quiz is given, you cannot make up that quiz later.

Your three exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false and short answer/essay questions.

Grading Scale:	94 - 100% = A	= 188 - 200 points
	90 - 95% = A-	= 180 - 187 points
	87 - 89% = B+	= 174 - 179 points
	84 - 86% = B	= 168 - 173 points
	80 - 83% = B-	= 160 - 167 points
	77 - 79% = C+	= 154 - 159 points
	74 - 76% = C	= 148 - 153 points
	70 - 73% = C-	= 140 - 147 points
	67 - 69% = D+	= 134 - 139 points
	64 - 66% = D	= 128 - 133 points
	60 - 63% = D-	= 120 - 127 points
	59% or < = F	= 0 - 119 points

### Rules of Classroom Etiquette:

**\*Class participation includes class attendance, and participation in class without distraction or disruption from cell phones, laptops or any other device or behavior.**

**No cell phones on during class. No texting during class.**

**Laptops used during class are to take notes only.**

**No photographs taken of the Instructor or her work product during class.**

**No disparaging remarks about the opinions and views of others will be tolerated.**

**Respect for your fellow students and Instructor - in other words civility\* in the classroom is required.**

**\*Civility = Politeness; courteousness. Gracious consideration of others.**

**Students must comply with the Eastern Michigan University policy on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty, which is located on line at:**

**“[www.emich.edu/sjs/violations.html](http://www.emich.edu/sjs/violations.html).”**

## Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week #1 - 1/6

Introduction to PLSC 215

Course Syllabus and Schedule

Basic concepts and definitions

Week #2 - 1/11, 1/13

The U.S. Constitution as a Source of "Rights"

The Role of Congress, the President and

the Courts in Establishing "Rights" in the United States

U.S. Constitution

Monk, Part I

Week #3 - 1/18, 1/20

**Monday 1/18 - No Classes - Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

The Bill of Rights

Amendment I - Five Freedoms of Expression

1/20 - Quiz #1

Monk, Part I

Week #4 - 1/25, 1/27

The Bill of Rights

Amendment II - Right to Bear Arms

1/27 - Quiz #2

U.S. Constitution

Week #5 - 2/1, 2/3

The Bill of Rights

Amendments IV, V and V - Due Process of Law

2/3 - Quiz #3

U.S. Constitution

Week #6 - 2/8, 2/10

The Bill of Rights

Amendment VIII - Cruel and Unusual Punishment

Other Civil Rights and Liberties in the U.S. Constitution

2/10 - Exam #1

U.S. Constitution

U.S. Constitution

Week #7 - 2/15, 2/17

The 1960s and its Impact on Civil Rights

and Liberties in the U.S.

Introduction to *The New Jim Crow*

*The New Jim Crow*

Alexander, M.

**2/21 - 2/28 = No Classes - Winter Recess**

Week #8 - 2/29, 3/2  
Equal Protection of the Law  
“Equality” in the United States  
Voting Rights in the United States  
3/2 - Quiz #4

Monk, Part II

Week #9 - 3/7, 3/9  
African-Americans and Equal Protection  
3/9 - Quiz #5

The New Jim Crow

Week #10 - 3/14, 3/16  
3/14 - Exam #2  
Native Americans and Equal Protection

Week #11 - 3/21, 3/23  
Women and Equal Protection

Week #12 - 3/28, 3/30  
Gay Marriage and Equal Protection for LGBTQ  
3/30 - Quiz #6

Week #13 - 4/4, 4/6  
Contemporary Civil Rights and Liberties  
4/6 - Quiz #7

Week #14 - 4/11, 4/13  
Economic Due Process  
Environmental Protection

Week #15 - 4/18  
Exam Review

**Final Exams - 4/21 - 4/26**

Exam#3 for PLSC 215/Sec. 00 = Mon 4/25 - 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.