

PLSC 215: Civil Rights & Liberties in a Diverse United States

Eastern Michigan University Department of Political Science

Winter 2016

Section 1; CRN 24781

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45am

Pray-Harrold 327

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Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 8:15-9:15am and 12:30-1:45pm (or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will examine how a variety of groups in the United States have sought legal protection and recognition through the Constitution, judicial interpretation, and legislation. We will specifically focus on tracing the political and legal histories of the modern Civil Rights Movement, Women's Rights movement, and the LGBTQ Rights movement. In addition, we will examine historical and contemporary developments in the law of First Amendment freedom of speech and freedom of religion, paying particular attention to how First Amendment freedoms have both facilitated the movements and have themselves been shaped by the movements. We will consider how civil rights and civil liberties policies are influenced by constitutional law, government institution design and membership, policy processes, public opinion, and social activism. Through our evaluation, we will encounter a diverse range of perspectives and examine how our legal and political systems mediate conflict between different groups' civil rights and liberties.

Learning Objectives: This course satisfies the U.S. Diversity component of EMU's General Education curriculum. The primary goals for this course are as follows:

- 1) Examine the complexity of students' own cultural identities and how these relate to the cultural identities of others in the U.S.
- 2) Explore the causes and consequences of social intolerance in the U.S.
- 3) Examine the difference between social intolerance and institutionalized racism, ethnocentrism, and exclusion in the U.S.
- 4) Explore how diversity has affected and continues to affect income distribution, economic mobility, political access, and the democratic process in the U.S.
- 5) Develop an awareness of alternative values, views, and communication styles in the U.S.

COURSE POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Communicating with the Instructor: Please feel welcome to visit my office hours with any questions about the course, or arrange for an individual appointment. You are also welcome to contact me via e-mail. ***I prefer for you to e-mail me directly as opposed to using the Canvas e-mail tool.*** You can expect an acknowledgement of your e-mail within 24 hours on weekdays, or 48 hours on weekends. Communications should be focused on course-related matters. Please note that university regulations require me to only communicate with students about the course through their official “@emich.edu” accounts. Therefore, please use your “@emich.edu” account when contacting me. I reserve the right to respond, “it’s in the syllabus,” if you ask a question that is readily answered by reading the syllabus. Additionally, please note that although I am a licensed attorney, I cannot serve as your personal legal counsel, so I will not be able to engage requests for legal advice or representation.

Course Canvas Page: This course has a supplemental Canvas page, which will be used to store the syllabus, post supplemental readings, and post grades. It is possible that we will also use it to turn in assignments. To access the page, visit <http://canvas.emich.edu>. If you have any technical difficulties with Canvas, either use the “Help” link on the Canvas user dashboard, or contact the 24/7 Canvas Helpdesk at 844-326-6322.

Electronics in Class: The use of cell phones is prohibited in class. (Exceptions will be made if you have a legitimate emergency situation that requires you to be “on-call.” Please inform me of this BEFORE class begins.) Computers/tablets may be used for note-taking, digital textbook reading, and other course-related purposes. If you use a cell phone or use the computer or other electronics for purposes unrelated to class and it becomes a distraction to others in the class or to the professor, your Attendance & Professionalism grade will be reduced as described elsewhere in this syllabus.

Late Work Policy: All assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class in paper form (unless otherwise instructed) by the due date, and all in-class assignments must be performed at the scheduled time. Assignments that are more than 24 hours late will receive no credit. Those turned in up to 12 hours late will be reduced by one letter grade. Those turned in 12-24 hours late will be reduced by 2 letter grades. The only exceptions are for properly-documented emergencies, medical conditions, religious observances, jury duty, military service, or other circumstances recognized by the University.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: It is my goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students, including those with disabilities that may affect their learning in this class. If you believe you may have trouble

participating or effectively demonstrating learning in this course, please meet with me (with or without an accommodation letter from the Disability Resource Center) to discuss reasonable options or adjustments. During our discussion, I may suggest the possibility/necessity of your contacting the DRC (240 Student Center; (734) 487-2470; swd_office@emich.edu) to talk about academic accommodations. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about such issues, but it is best if we can talk at least one week prior to the need for any modifications. EMU Board of Regents Policy 8.3 requires that anyone wishing accommodation for a disability first registers with the Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) in 240 EMU Student Center. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the DRC promptly as you will only be accommodated from the date you register. No retroactive accommodations are possible.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Section V.A of the Eastern Michigan University Conduct Code and Judicial Structure for Students and Student Organizations provides that “engaging in academic dishonesty in any form with respect to examinations, course assignments, research projects, grades, and/or academic records” is “subject to disciplinary action.” This includes “cheating, falsification, and plagiarism.” The full policy is available at <http://www.emich.edu/policies/policy.php?id=124&term=student%20conduct>. The EMU library also offers a slideshow tutorial regarding plagiarism at <http://www.emich.edu/library/help/plagiarism/>. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- Submitting a paper prepared by another person, in whole or in part, as your own.
- Submitting a paper for this course that is identical, or substantially similar, to one you submitted in another course.
- Copying the work of another, or assisting a person in copying your work.
- Including direct quotations or paraphrases without citing the source. [Avoid copying and pasting from electronic sources to prevent this from happening.]
- Failing to cite a source from which you obtained an argument, idea, theory, hypothesis, data, statistical results, or any other material that you are using to support positions taken in your own written work, but which you did not generate based on your own analysis of the materials. [When in doubt, cite.]
- Reproducing lecture notes without properly citing the notes and instructor.
- Falsely citing a work as representing an argument that it does not.
- Looking at another person’s exam or using an unauthorized “cheat sheet” or electronic device during a test.

Written assignments in this class are subject to review by plagiarism-detecting software. Penalties for academic dishonesty will range from the student being assigned a grade of

“0” for an individual assignment to a grade of “0” for the entire course. Incidents of dishonesty may also be reported to the Department and/or University, which may result in further disciplinary action as provided in the Student Conduct Code.

University Policies: For more information about University policies, please visit the Student Handbook at: <http://www.emich.edu/studenthandbook/>.

Withdrawal Deadlines: The last day to withdraw from this class for a 100% refund is Friday, January 15, 2016. The last day to withdraw with a “W” grade (no refund) is Wednesday, March 23, 2016.

COURSE TEXTS

Required Books:

Dierenfield, Bruce. 2008. *The Civil Rights Movement, Revised Edition*. New York: Routledge.

***Note: Courtesy of an EFellows grant received by the University, this book is available free via the Halle Library electronic catalog to all members of the EMU community with a valid login. The book was purchased in multiple-user format, which means that the entire class can access it simultaneously. While the book cannot be downloaded, but it can be read online in its entirety. You may directly access the e-book using this link:

<http://ezproxy.emich.edu/login?url=http://www.emich.ebib.com/patron/FullRecord.aspx?p=1397585>

Mezey, Susan Gluck. 2011. *Elusive Equality*. 2nd ed. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Pierceson, Jason. 2015. *Sexual Minorities in Politics: An Introduction*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, Inc.

Supreme Court Cases: We will read brief synopses of the Supreme Court cases listed in italics on select course days. For some cases, I will provide an edited version of the case for you to read. In most cases, I would just like you to read summary briefs of the case, which you can access on www.oyez.org by searching for the case name.

Supplemental Articles: Additional materials referenced in the schedule of readings will be made available either as electronic handouts on Canvas, or can be accessed via the library website as discussed in the notes to the schedule of readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

This course will be graded on a points system (Points Earned divided by Points Possible). A summary of course requirements and associated point totals appears below.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Points</u>
Attendance & Professionalism	Daily	50
Written and In-Class Commentary 1	Per Sign-Up	50
Written and In-Class Commentary 2	Per Sign-Up	50
Exam #1	Tue, Feb. 9	100
Exam #2	Tue, Mar. 15	100
Final Exam	Tue, Apr. 26	100
		450

Grading Scale: The following scale will be used to assign final course grades:

A	94-100%	C	76-74%
A-	93-90%	C-	73-70%
B+	89-87%	D+	69-67%
B	86-84%	D	66-64%
B-	83-80%	D-	63-60%
C+	79-77%	F	0-59%

When considering “close cases” at the end of the semester (students who are within 1% of the next highest final grade), I will consider demonstrated effort throughout the semester, improvement throughout the semester, engagement in the course (as demonstrated through attendance, attentiveness, and participation), communication with the instructor, and responsiveness to instructor feedback.

Written and In-Class Commentaries: On two occasions during the semester (I will pass around a sign-up sheet), you will prepare a 2-3 page reflection paper on the assigned reading for the day. Your paper should accomplish the following tasks:

- 1) Briefly summarize the key theme or lesson to be learned from the reading(s),
- 2) Briefly explain how the historical events, political policies, or legal cases discussed in the reading have either promoted or restrained civil rights and civil liberties in the United States, and
- 3) Offer a short commentary on your personal response to the readings and how they are or are not relevant in the present-day United States.

On the days that you prepare written commentaries, you will also help lead discussion by sharing the thoughts you prepared in your paper.

Exams: There will be three non-cumulative in-class exams. The first will cover the Civil Rights Movement, the second will cover Women’s Rights, and the final exam will cover First Amendment freedoms and LGBTQ Rights. They may consist of some combination of matching, multiple choice, true/false, short answer, or short essay questions.

Attendance and Professionalism: I will take attendance each day. Attendance points are awarded on an additive basis: each class period is worth 2 points, so you will earn 2 points for each day you are in class. There are 28 class meetings, not including the final exam. Attendance is worth 50 points total, so **you may miss 3 classes without explanation without any effect on your final grade.** To be clear, even if your first 3 absences are “excused,” that does not mean that you can then miss 3 more without explanation. Absences after the first 3 (whether or not the first 3 were “excused”) will only be excused due to documented illness, bereavement, military or jury service, religious observance, or other university-recognized reason.

Attendance Bonus Points: You may continue earning attendance points after you reach the maximum 50 points. Therefore, if you do not miss any classes, it is possible that you will earn 6 extra credit points. Bonus points are not awarded by proxy (i.e. you cannot claim to have bonus-point-worthy perfect attendance because all of your absences were “excused.”)

Tardiness, leaving early, and other unprofessional behavior: If you are late to class, leave early, or frequently leave your seat during class, you will lose 1 point for that day’s attendance. If you engage in other unprofessional conduct during the class including but not limited to cell phone use, violations of the electronics policy, side conversations, and any other disruptive, rude, disrespectful, or obnoxious behavior, you will forfeit your attendance points for the day.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

- I will follow this schedule as closely as possible. It is also possible that I may add, delete, or substitute different readings for the readings that appear on this syllabus. Any changes will be announced in class and via e-mail and/or Canvas.
- Case briefs of referenced Supreme Court cases (in *italics*) should be accessed by visiting www.oyez.org and typing the case name into the search box in the upper right hand corner of the homepage, unless I post a version of the case on Canvas.
- Articles with the designation “CQ Researcher” can be accessed from the Halle Library catalog, <http://www.emich.edu/library>. In the “Find Articles, Books & More” box, type “CQ Researcher.” Click on the first search result “The CQ Researcher.” Then type the listed author and title in the search box. The first search result should be the article you want (Check the year to make sure that it is).

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENT</u>
R, Jan. 7	Syllabus and Course Introduction	None

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

T, Jan. 12	Jim Crow and the Origins of the Civil Rights Movement	Dierenfield, Ch. 1-3 <i>Brown v. Board I</i> <i>Brown v. Board II</i>
R, Jan. 14	Taking a Stand for Integration	Dierenfield, Ch. 4-7
T, Jan. 19	Documentary: <i>Eyes on The Prize: Ain't Scared of Your Jails, 1960-1961</i>	None
R, Jan. 21	Ole Miss, Birmingham, The March on Washington, Freedom Summer	Dierenfield, Ch. 8-11
T, Jan. 25	The 1964 Civil Rights Act in Court	<i>Heart of Atlanta Motel v. U.S</i> <i>Katzenbach v. McClung</i> <i>Daniel v. Paul</i>
R, Jan. 27	Bloody Sunday and the 1965 Voting Rights Act	Dierenfield, Ch. 12, 13 <i>Shelby County v. Holder</i>
T, Feb. 2	Documentary: <i>Eyes on the Prize: Two Societies, 1965-1968</i>	None

R, Feb. 4 Affirmative Action and other Current Katel, "Affirmative Action"
Issues in Race Politics (2008 w/2012 update, CQ
Researcher)
U. Cal v. Bakke
Grutter v. Bollinger
Gratz v. Bollinger
Schuetze v. BAMN

T, Feb. 9 **EXAM #1**

THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT

R, Feb. 11 The Women's Movement in Mezey, Intro and Ch. 1
Historical Perspective

T, Feb. 16 Gender and Education Mezey, Ch. 2

R, Feb. 19 Employment Discrimination Mezey, Ch. 3

T, Feb. 23 & R, Feb. 25: NO CLASS - WINTER BREAK

T, Mar. 1 Sexual Harassment Mezey, Ch. 4

R, Mar. 3 Work and Family Policies Mezey, Ch. 5

T, Mar. 8 Privacy Rights and Women's Health Mezey, Ch. 6
Griswold v. Connecticut
Eisenstadt v. Baird
Roe v. Wade

R, Mar. 10 State Action and Reproductive Rights Mezey, Ch. 7, 8
Planned Parenthood v. Casey
Gonzales v. Carhart

T, Mar. 15 **EXAM #2**

FIRST AMENDMENT FREEDOMS AND THE MOVEMENTS

R, Mar. 17	Freedom of Speech: Core Principles	Glazer, "Free Speech on Campus" (2015, CQ Researcher)
T, Mar. 22	Freedom of Speech in the Public Forum	<i>Madsen v. Women's Hlth Ctr</i> <i>Shenck v. Pro-Choice Network</i> <i>McCullen v. Coakley</i> <i>Snyder v. Phelps</i>
R, Mar. 24	Freedom of Religion: State Regulation and Public Displays of Religion	Long, Ch. 6 (handout) Hamilton, Ch. 9 (handout)
T, Mar. 29	Current Issues in Religion as Applied to civil rights & liberties movements	Karaim, "Religious Freedom" (2016, CQ Researcher) <i>Burwell v. Hobby Lobby</i>

THE LGBTQ RIGHTS MOVEMENT

R, Mar. 31	Movie: <i>Milk</i>	None
T, Apr. 5	Sexual Minorities and Politics: Introduction and Historical Perspectives	Pierceson, Ch. 1, 2
R, Apr. 7	Political Theory and Public Opinion	Pierceson, Ch. 3, 4
T, Apr. 12	LGBTQ Issues in the Courts	Pierceson, Ch. 5 <i>Romer v. Evans</i> <i>Lawrence v. Texas</i> <i>U.S. v. Windsor</i> <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>
R, Apr. 14	LGBTQ Issues in Public Policy	Pierceson, Ch. 6
T, Apr. 19	Emerging Issues: Transgender Rights and Global Developments	Pierceson, Ch. 7, 8
T, Apr. 26	FINAL EXAM: 7:30-9:00am	