

PLSC 215 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Fall 2013

Professor: Adrian J. Lottie, Ph.D.

CRN: 16214

Office: 601-R P-H

Class Time: 3:30-4:45p T-Th

Class Location: 421 P-H

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**Office Hours: 9:00-9:30a, 12:15-2:00p, 4:45-5:00p TTh
and by Appointment**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to diversity and liberty in society from a legal and broad public policy perspective. It will provide students with some of the necessary educational skills to succeed in a modern society which requires a knowledge of diversity and liberty, their effects, and the personal ability to deal with these principles in a legal and global context. Upon completing this course, you should be knowledgeable about a broad range of legal, diversity, and global public policy issues and the part they play in all of our lives on a daily basis. We will survey how a wide variety of groups and individuals sought and currently seek legal protection and recognition through the Constitution, judicial interpretation, legislation and political means. Exposure to these struggles will allow the student to experience a wide range of perspectives and critique how the legal system and society has dealt with and may deal with clashes between diverse elements in the U.S.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1. To examine and increase awareness of the dimensions and complexity of diversity and liberty in American laws, institutions, cultures and the long term effects that diversity and liberty have on each. This course will also assist students in developing an awareness of alternative values, views, perspectives, and communication methods as they relate to diversity and liberty issues and as these issues and methods relate to them.**
- 2. To cultivate students' expertise in diversity and liberty issues in order to allow them to participate in credible discourse involving these subjects and to objectively evaluate the origins and ramifications of them on an everyday basis as it relates to their own cultural identity. Additionally, students will develop an awareness of and sensitivity to alternative values, views, and communication styles in the U.S.**

3. To provide a forum to explore the ends means and consequences of diversity and liberty, including the causes and consequences of social intolerance in the U.S. Further, students will be assisted in determining methods of analysis and evaluation of this subject through significant and insightful readings, discussions and case studies which involve an examination of the differences between social intolerance and institutionalized racism, ethno-centrism, and exclusion in the U.S.
4. To cultivate an appreciation by students of the role that diversity has played in the evolution of American law, institutions, culture, income distribution, economic mobility, political access, and the democratic process in the U.S. as well as their own interaction with diversity as it affects them.
5. To cultivate an appreciation of liberties and how they interact with diversity. To examine how technologies and globalization affect and interact with the objectives described above in 1-5.

REQUIRED READING

Stephens, Otis H., Jr. and John M. Scheb II. *American Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties, Volume II 5th ed.*, Boston, Mass.: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2012.

ISBN 978-0-495—91490-7

Books: Should be available at campus area bookstores and a variety of online sources.

Selected cases and reading may be provided by the professor from time to time in class and online.

EXAMS ASSIGNMENTS & ATTENDANCE

There will be three examinations: take-home, mixed items covering the readings and discussions with emphasis on the discussions. Late exams and assignments are graded ZERO. Each exam will constitute 30% of your grade, and participation in classroom discussions/attendance 10%. Scale: 90-100=A, 88-89=A-, 86-87=B+, 80-85=B, 78-79=B-, 76-77=C+, 70-75=C, 68-69=C-, 60-67=D, 0- 59=E

Disabled persons are exempt from the late policy.

Exceptions are rare and require written documentation acceptable to the professor at his

discretion.

E-mail Policy

E-mails will only be responded to if: the student clearly identifies himself/herself on the subject line of the e-mail or in the e-mail address and clearly identifies the course by number: 215 on the subject line. In addition, in general I will respond to e-mails addressing an assignment or examination issue or classroom discussions.

Work Ethic

In general, it is a very bad idea not to come to class. This class will require a great deal of work. Usually it will require that you work at least 2 hours per day 4 or more days a week just to stay abreast of the discussions. In addition, exam preparation will require an additional 10-15 hours of study prior to the exams. It is best to read the assigned reading prior to coming to class or you may get lost and not understand the discussions.

Exams sent via e-mail require that the student save/print the sent e-mail showing the date and time sent, the identity of the sender, and the exam attachment with the e-mail if needed for verification. All assignments/exams must be sent in the instructed format or they will be graded ZERO.

Be sure to save back-up copies of all work in case the professor accidentally deletes or loses your exam.

Failure to save or print these e-mails may result in a ZERO for the exam.

Letter of Recommendation Policy

Letters of Recommendation: Letters of recommendation, in general, will only be written for the top two to three students in this class when requested. Exceptions are rare and only provided in cases where the student's performance is exceptional in another, relevant arena(relevant to the purpose of the letter), known by the professor.

Tentative Schedule of Topics

Week 1	Chapter 1	Constitutional Sources of Civil Rights and Liberties
Week 2	Chapter 1 Continued	
Week 3	Chapter 2	Property Rights and Economic Freedom
Week 4	Chapter 2 Continued,	
Week 5	Examination 1 Essay and Objective Items: Take-Home. Chapter 3	

Expressive Freedom and the First Amendment

Week 6	Chapter 3 Continued
Week 7	Chapter 5 The Constitution and Criminal Justice
Week 8	Chapter 4 Religious Liberty and Church State Relations
Week 9	Examination 2 Take-Home: Essay and Objective Items.
Week 10	Chapter 6 Personal Autonomy and the Constitutional Right to Privacy
Week 11	Chapter 7 Equal Protection and the Antidiscrimination Principle
Week 12	Chapter 7 Continued
Week 13	Chapter 7 Continued
Week 14	Chapter 8 Elections Representation and Voting Rights
Week 15	Chapter 8 Continued, Final Examination Take-Home Due December 17 6:00pm via e-mail attachment.

1. Be inquisitive, grades are important but learning is often the key to grades: try to learn something.
2. Keep this syllabus in a permanent easy to access place: file cabinet, loose leaf notebook, flash drive, portable hard drive, hard drive,
3. At least each day that you plan to attend class and preferably each week day.
4. Imagine that you are an executive who has to manage every detail of your own affairs
5. Read assignments before class. Invest at least two hours per day during the week for this course and consider this course one of your major projects and responsibilities.
6. Review your notes and discussions regularly: do not wait for examinations to do so.
7. Break down your writing/exam and when appropriate, discussion assignments into little

- pieces and work on the little pieces regularly, well in advance of due dates.
8. Read the comments/notes by the professor and note comments by other students so that you are abreast of and aware of the “tempo/rhythm” of the class.
 9. Do not get behind during the semester: it is very difficult to keep up when you do.
 10. This is especially true for assignment deadlines.
 11. Attend class regularly: often discussions and materials are presented during class that are not available at any other time or place. These in turn are often subjects of exam questions.

Ethics and Homeland Security

Civility and academic honesty are required. Engaging in uncivil or dishonest behavior may result in disciplinary action against the offending student.

Foreign Students and Homeland Security

Any changes in a foreign student’s name, residence address, academic status: full or part time, dropping or withdrawing from a class, changes in program of study, completion date, level of study such as undergrad versus grad, funding source, employment or GA position, intent to transfer to another university, or any probation or disciplinary action due to a criminal conviction requires that the student report the event or change to the Office of International Studies 229 King Hall within 10 days of its occurrence. Failure to do so may result in arrest and deportation. For questions and concerns contact OIS 487-3116

Good Luck!