

Professor Samuel P. Stafford
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 5:30-8:30 pm
and by appointment, Room 230, Anderson
352-273-2372 (Office)

Spring 2020

POS 3606, Section 18369
Turlington 2319
Period 1 T, 1-2 R

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

This course is designed to examine several categories of enduring and emerging civil liberties granted each person by the United States Constitution. The major purpose of this survey course is to investigate the role and functions of courts, especially the United States Supreme Court, in addressing major interpretive/enforcement issues concerning civil liberties in America today. Additionally, the interconnected roles of the Judicial, Legislative and Executive branches of government will be examined and assessed during the semester. Students seeking a more in-depth exposure to purely legal/jurisprudence aspects of civil liberties should take criminal justice and/or constitutional law courses.

Major course content and attention will focus on:

1. Political-social impact of civil liberty issues;
2. The role and responsibilities of courts in the management and/or resolution of civil liberty policy conflict;
3. The nature, limitations and capacity of the United States Supreme Court to shape, define and address evolving civil liberty concerns; and
4. The interconnecting and/or conflicting roles of various components of the justice process, media, interest groups, and society, as they all seek to influence the evolution of civil liberties in this country.

REQUIRED READINGS AND MATERIALS

Barker and Barker, Civil Liberties and the Constitution, 9th Ed., (Prentice-Hall, 2010).

O'Brien, David. Storm Center, The Supreme Court in American Politics, 11th Ed., (Norton), 2017 (most current is acceptable).

(Numerous photocopied cases, readings, interpretive materials.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student will complete all required reading assignments, brief cases prior to each class meeting, and be prepared to discuss the cases/readings.
2. Each student will be expected to read and thoroughly digest the Articles and the Amendments to the United States Constitution.
3. There will be two (2) major examinations: a midterm and a cumulative final exam. All major exams will only be given during the semester.
4. There will be several, announced and unannounced quizzes during the semester. These focus-quizzes cannot be made up or taken again. No exceptions.
5. There may be one class project during the semester. Each student will be required to participate and/or submit the project on time. No exceptions.
6. Short (12 pages) and long (27 pages) research papers will be assigned during the semester. Each research paper must be turned in on time, or there will be a corresponding reduction in the grade earned by the research paper for each calendar day the paper is late; **or** the paper may NOT be accepted.
7. Due to the nature of the course, class attendance and participation is mandatory, and will count toward your final grade. There will be a heavy emphasis on student-teacher interchange and class discussion.
8. Class participation/attendance, assigned research papers, (class project), quizzes, etc., will reflect about 35% of the student's final grade; the midterm will count about 25%; while the cumulative final examination will comprise approximately 40% of the total grade in this course.
9. Each student has the individual responsibility to read, comprehend and fully comply with all procedural requirements of the course as listed on the course syllabus and any additional ones made in class.
10. Each student is invited to consult with the professor **prior** to dropping or withdrawing from the course. This is an important requirement.