
CIVIL RIGHTS SYLLABUS

Glendale Community College | Fall 2009 | POS 223 Section 15604

Contact information

Instructor:	Toni McClory
Telephone:	(623) 845-3730
Email:	toni.mcclory@gcmail.maricopa.edu (<i>Important!</i> Please put POS 223 in the subject line to avoid the District's spam checker & assure that your email gets prompt attention)
Office:	05-135 (same building as the campus bookstore)
Office hours:	MW 11:00–12:00; TTh 8:30-10:00 & other times by appointment
Class meets:	MWF 9:00-9:50a
BlackBoard:	https://ecourses.maricopa.edu/webapps/login/ Go to BlackBoard for all class handouts, online reading assignments, extra credit assignments, the study guide wiki, your grades, and more.
Study Guide Wiki:	Go to BlackBoard (above) & click the Study Guide Wiki tab. This will take you to an interactive study guide that you and your classmates can complete together!

Required textbook

Epstein & Walker, *Constitutional Law for a Changing America: Rights, Liberties and Justice*, 6th ed. (CQ Press 2007)

About the course

This course focuses on the constitutional guarantees of liberty and equality in five different areas: freedom of expression, freedom of religion, personal privacy, criminal justice, and discrimination. We will study classic Supreme Court rulings as well as current controversies over abortion, affirmative action, anti-terrorism measures, the death penalty, gay rights, hate speech, Internet pornography, religion, and more. Students should leave the course with a richer understanding of: (1) the diverse groups and viewpoints that make up American society; (2) the tension that exists between personal freedom and security; and (3) the courts' pivotal role in resolving social conflict. POS 223 is designed for political science majors as well as for students interested in law, history, sociology, social work, philosophy, education, and business. The challenging reading and writing exercises will develop critical thinking skills useful in most professions. POS 223 qualifies for both Cultural Diversity (C) and Social and Behavioral Science (SB) credit at ASU. There are no prerequisites.

Official course description:

<http://www.maricopa.edu/curriculum/M-Z/946pos223.html>

Class policies

- The primary assignment in this course is to *keep up with the reading*. You should expect to spend roughly three hours per week in preparation for class discussions. Because the reading is challenging, this course is recommended only for motivated students with good study habits. (Note: Supreme

Court cases are difficult to read in the beginning. Don't panic—it gets easier with practice!) Because of the challenging course material regular class attendance is strongly advised.

- Late work will be accepted with a 15% grade deduction. Unless there are very special circumstances, **late work must be submitted within 1 week of the due date.**
- **Your own words please!** All written work must be in your own words and syntax unless you are quoting and properly credit the source. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and the college penalties are severe. (See MCCCCD Policy 2.3.11.) There are no joint projects in this course.

How Students Can Avoid Plagiarism:

http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/English/plagiarism_studentresources.html

- Please keep a copy of all your work until the end of the course as insurance against loss by you or me.
- Let me know if you have any special needs that require accommodation and please make the appropriate arrangements with the College's Disability Services Office (623) 845-3080.
- Please consult the GCC College Handbook and the MCCCCD Student Guide to learn more about your rights and responsibilities as a student at GCC.

College Handbook:

http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/catalog/student_rights.html

MCCCCD Student Guide:

<http://www.maricopa.edu/legal/student/>

Grading

Required Assignments	Points
8 case briefs (10 points each)	80
Paper*	100
Appellate court visit*	50
U.S. Supreme Court oral argument	50
Video review	20
3 exams (Multiple choice, 100 points each)*	300
Total points	600
* Required to pass course	

The final grade will be assigned on a scale of: A = 540 points or higher; B = 480–539 points; C = 420–538 points; D = 360–419 points; F = below 360 points. Strong classroom participation will be credited in borderline cases.

Extra credit

Up to 60 extra credit points can be earned by completing additional assignments that are posted in BlackBoard (Go to Extra Credit Tab). These credits can be used to offset low grades or late penalties. They cannot be used as substitutes for the required paper, appellate court visit, or final exam.