

CIVIL RIGHTS SYLLABUS

Glendale Community College • Spring 2009 • POS 223 Section 22318

Contact information

Instructor: Toni McClory
Telephone: (623) 845-3730
Email: **toni.mcclory@gcmail.maricopa.edu** (*Important!* Please put POS 223 somewhere in the subject line to avoid the District's spam checker & assure that your email gets prompt attention!)
Office: 05-135 (in same building as campus bookstore)
Office hours: MW 11:00-12:00; TTh 8:30-10:00 & other times by appointment
Class meets: TTh 10:00a-11:15a; room HTA-6
Blackboard: **<https://blackboard.maricopa.edu/webapps/login/>** (for online reading assignments, study guide wiki, extra credit, handouts, and grades)

Required texts

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.

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. Assignments and missed exams must be made-up within 1 week of the due date unless there are *very* special circumstances.

- ***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; the college penalties are severe (see MCCCDCD Policy 2.3.11). There are no joint projects in this course.
- Please keep a copy of all your work until the end of the semester as insurance against loss by you or me.
- Taping of lectures and class discussions is not allowed without permission. Please let me know if you have any special needs that require accommodation and make appropriate arrangements with the Disability and Services Office: (623) 845-3080.
- Consult the college and district handbooks to learn your rights and responsibilities as a student at GCC.

GCC Student Handbook: http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/catalog/student_rights.html

MCCCDCD Student Guide: Polices, Procedures and Resources: <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 will be posted in Blackboard. These credits can be used to offset low grades or late penalties. They cannot be used as substitutes for the required (starred) assignments indicated above.

Important dates

2-5	<i>Texas v. Johnson</i> brief due
2-17	Exam 1 (please bring a scantron)
2-24	<i>Lee v. Weisman</i> brief due
3-5	<i>Planned Parenthood v. Casey</i> brief due
3-12	Exam 2 (please bring a scantron)
3-26	<i>Terry v. Ohio</i> brief due
3-31	<i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> brief due
4-2	Paper due
4-9	<i>Atkins v. Virginia</i> brief due
4-16	Video review due
4-23	<i>U.S. v. Virginia</i> brief due
4-30	U.S. Supreme Court oral argument due
5-5	<i>Grutter v. Bollinger</i> brief due
5-7	Last day to submit appellate court visit
5-7	Last day to submit extra credit
5-12	Exam 3 (please bring a scantron)

Assignments

- The following assignments should be completed by the date indicated below.
- **Online reading assignments and handouts can be accessed from links inside of BlackBoard ("BB"). Go to >Assigned Readings.**
- How to read the textbook: With the exception of the first unit, the assigned textbook readings only include cases. However, you are encouraged to read the explanatory material that sandwiches the cases. (I'll be covering the major points in class.) But you'll get more out of the course if you read some background material as well.

Rights, liberties, and the American legal system	
Tue 1-20	Introduction: Rights & liberties
Th 1-22	Factsheet U.S. Judicial Branch (in BB); skim textbook ch. 1
Tue 1-27	Factsheet Power of Judicial Review (BB); skim textbook ch. 2
Th 1-29	Factsheet The nationalization of the Bill of Rights (BB); skim textbook ch. 3
Freedom of speech	
Tue 2-3	Factsheet Freedom of Speech (BB); <i>Schenck v. United States</i> , p. 213; <i>Brandenburg v. Ohio</i> , p. 239
Th 2-5	** <i>Texas v. Johnson</i>, p. 255 (brief due); <i>Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire</i> , p. 261; <i>Cohen v. California</i> , p. 262
Tue 2-10	<i>Miller v. California</i> , p. 356; <i>Ashcroft v. Free Speech Coalition</i> , p. 365; <i>Reno v. ACLU</i> , p. 372

Th 2-12	<i>R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul</i> , p. 272; <i>Wisconsin v. Mitchell</i> , p. 283; <i>Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District</i> , p. 251; <i>Morse v. Frederick</i> (BB)
Tue 2-17	** Exam 1 (bring a scantron)
Freedom of religion	
Th 2-19	Factsheet Establishment Clause (BB); <i>Everson v. Board of Education</i> , p. 140; <i>Marsh v. Chambers</i> (BB); <i>Lynch v. Donnelly</i> (BB)
T 2-24	** <i>Lee v. Weisman</i>, p. 193 (brief due); <i>Wallace v. Jafree</i> (BB); <i>Good News Club v. Milford Central School</i> (BB)
Th 2-26	Factsheet Free Exercise Clause (BB); <i>Sherbert v. Verner</i> , p. 111; <i>Employment Division v. Smith</i> , p. 124
Personal privacy (abortion, sexual freedom, right to die)	
Tue 3-3	Factsheet Due Process (BB); <i>Griswold v. Connecticut</i> , p. 433; <i>Roe v. Wade</i> , p. 423;
Th 3-5	** <i>Planned Parenthood v. Casey</i>, p. 439 (brief due); <i>Gonzales v. Carhart</i> (BB)
Tue 3-10	<i>Lawrence v. Texas</i> , p. 452; <i>Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Dept. of Health</i> , p. 461
Th 3-12	** Exam 2 (please bring a scantron)
3-17 & 19	No class (spring break)
Criminal justice	
Tue 3-24	Textbook, Criminal Justice and Constitutional Rights (pp. 475–480); Factsheet Fourth Amendment (BB); <i>Katz v. United States</i> , p. 484; <i>Kyllo v. United States</i> (BB)
Th 3-26	** <i>Terry v. Ohio</i>, p. 502 (brief due); <i>Illinois v. Wardlow</i> (BB); <i>Florida v. J.L.</i> (BB); Textbook, The Fourth Amendment & the War Against Terrorism, (pp. 507–508)
Tue 3-31	<i>Mapp v. Ohio</i> , p. 510; <i>Escobedo v. Illinois</i> , p. 528; ** <i>Miranda v. Arizona</i>, p. 531 (brief due); <i>Yarborough v. Alvarado</i> (BB)
Th 4-2	** <i>Paper due</i>; <i>Powell v. Alabama</i> (Scottsboro Boys) p. 550; <i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> , p. 554
Tue 4-7	<i>Gregg v. Georgia</i> , p. 584;
Th 4-9	** <i>Atkins v. Virginia</i>, p. 593 (brief due); <i>Roper v. Simmons</i> (BB)

Equality

Tue 4-14	Factsheet Equal Protection (BB); <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> , p. 627; <i>Brown v. Board of Education I</i> , p. 636;
Th 4-16	<i>Brown v. Board of Education II</i> , p. 639; <i>Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Bd. of Ed.</i> p. 642; ** Video review due
Tue 4-21	<i>Loving v. Virginia</i> , p. 647; <i>Shelley v. Kramer</i> , p. 652; <i>Moose Lodge No. 107 v. Irvis</i> , p. 657
Th 4-23	<i>Reed v. Reed</i> , p. 662; <i>Craig v. Boren</i> , p. 669; <i>Rostker v. Goldberg</i> , p. 684; ** U.S. v. Virginia, p. 675 (brief due)
Tue 4-28	<i>Romer v. Evans</i> , p. 687; <i>Boy Scouts of America v. Dale</i> , p. 307
Th 4-30	<i>Goodridge v. Department of Public Health</i> (online); <i>Standhart v. Superior Court</i> (online) ** U.S. Supreme Court oral argument due
Tue 5-5	<i>Regents v. University of California v. Bakke</i> , p. 708; ** Grutter v. Bollinger, p. 766 (brief due); <i>Gratz v. Bollinger</i> (online)
Th 5-7	** Last day to submit appellate court visit; ** Last day to submit extra credit
Tue 5-12	** Exam 3 (please bring a scantron)