

Professor Samuel P. Stafford
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 5:30-8:30 P.M.
via Zoom and by pre-set appointment
352-273-2372 (office)

Ms. Shen (TA)
Office Hours: Tues 8:15-9:35 A.M., Thurs (9:20-10:40 A.M.)
Will take place in Library West lobby immediately following
our class period.
Email: ta.aclspring2023@gmail.com

POS3606, Section 15871
Rm 2319 Turlington Hall
Period 1 T, 1-2 R

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

This survey course is designed to examine several categories of enduring and emerging civil liberties granted to each person by the United States Constitution. The major purpose of this survey course is to investigate the role and function 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 federal and state government will be examined/assessed during the semester. Students seeking a more in-depth exposure to purely legal/jurisprudence aspects of civil liberties should take separate criminal justice and/or constitutional law courses.

Major course content and attention will focus on:

1. Historical, political-social justice impact of civil liberty issues;
2. The role and responsibilities of all levels of courts in the management and/or resolution of civil liberty policy conflict and implementation challenges;

3. The nature, limitations, power, and capacity of the United States Supreme Court to shape, define, and address evolving civil liberty concerns; and
4. The interconnecting and/or sometimes conflicting roles of various components of the justice system, media, interest groups, and society, as they each seek to influence and impact 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). (latest/most current edition is also acceptable)

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

(Numerous photocopied, web/link-based cases, readings, interpretive materials that will be provided to you.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student will complete all required reading assignments and brief all assigned cases prior to each class meeting, AND be prepared to fully and cogently discuss the cases/readings at the next class.
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 cumulative Midterm and a cumulative Final Exam. These Exams will only be given during the semester. No exceptions.
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 full letter grade reduction earned by the research paper for each calendar day the paper is late; **OR** the paper may NOT be accepted at all.
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-teach interchange, as well as facilitated class discussions where we will learn from one another. Hence, you must be present to participate.
8. Class participation/attendance, assigned research papers, (class project[s]), quizzes, etc. will reflect about 35% of the student's final grade; the midterm will count for about 25%; while the cumulative final examination will comprise approximately 40% of the total grade in this course. See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/> for current University of Florida grading policies.
9. Each student has the individual responsibility to read, comprehend, and fully comply with all procedural requirements of the course as listed in the Course Syllabus, **as well as any subsequent or additional ones** made during the entire semester.
10. Each student is required to consult with the professor prior to dropping or withdrawing from the course. **This is an important requirement and must be fulfilled.**
11. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner. Students have the responsibility to research and locate when the evaluation period opens. Each student must complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.

ZOOM PRIVACY CONSENT STATEMENT (If & When Applicable)

Our class sessions MAY HAVE to be audio/visually recorded at the request/requirement of the University if a pandemic need arises. Students who participate with their cameras engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voice recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the “chat” feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all University courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded material is strictly prohibited.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers or challenges, and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) by visiting our [Get Started page](#). It is important for students to **share, discuss, request** their need for various accommodations, and their accommodation letter from DRC with their instructor as early as possible in the semester.