

COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS DEPT./NUMBER PLSC 250
 UNITS OF CREDIT 3 LEC. HOURS/WEEK 3 COURSE LENGTH one semester
 DEGREE APPLICABLE X LAB. HOURS/WEEK _____
 NON-DEGREE APPLICABLE _____ OTHER HOURS/WEEK _____

1. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

A survey and analysis of the issues and problems considered by the U.S. Supreme Court in the area of civil liberties and civil rights. The rights of racial, political and religious minorities, and of criminal defendants; the concepts of due process and equal protection of the laws; the interaction of the Supreme Court with the President, Congress, political parties and interest groups.

2. CLASS SCHEDULE DESCRIPTION (125 characters)

The U.S. Supreme Court's treatment of the rights of political, racial and religious minorities, women, and criminal defendants.

3. PREREQUISITES AND COMPETENCY LEVELS REQUIRED (Title 5 Plan, p. 19)

Eligibility for ENGL 800.

4. COURSE OBJECTIVES (Must include objective(s) which involve "critical thinking," Title 5 Plan, p. 20.)

(1) Analyze historical development of U.S. Supreme Court decisions on civil liberties and civil rights. (2) Analyze and evaluate key Supreme Court doctrines on topics in civil liberties and civil rights. (3) Recognize, analyze and evaluate judicial philosophies of major Supreme Court Justices. (4) Recognize and apply legal terminology. (5) Analyze position of Supreme Court in the U.S. political system.

5. RECOMMENDED TEXT MATERIALS

Cushman, CASES IN CIVIL LIBERTIES
 Eight Supreme Court Decisions (C.S.M.)
 Pritchett, THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM

6. SUPPLIES NEEDED

None

7. SCOPE OF THE COURSE (Attach topical outline)

See attached.

8. EVALUATION (Include examinations, skills demonstrations, writing assignments, and other measures of ability to apply critical analysis. Include standards of evaluation where appropriate. Examples to be on file in Division Office.)

Essay and objective examinations; in-class recitation based on reading and evaluation of approximately 60 U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

PREPARED BY:

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Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

A survey and analysis of the issues and problems considered by the U.S. Supreme Court in the area of civil liberties and civil rights. The rights of women, of racial, political and religious minorities and of criminal defendants; the concepts of due process and equal protection of the laws; the interaction of the Supreme Court with the President, Congress, political parties and interest groups.

Outline of topics:

- I. The Supreme Court in the political process: techniques of opinion-making and "decision-avoidance"; the impact of public opinion, interest groups, political parties, and the elected branches of government on the Court.
- II. The Fourteenth Amendment, federalism, and the incorporation controversy.
- III. Freedom of speech and of the press:
 - A. sedition, loyalty, internal security and the rights of political minorities.
 - B. libel, obscenity, and the role of the censor.
 - C. picketing and "physical" speech.
- IV. Freedom of association; the right of petition and assembly.
- V. Religious liberty;
 - A. separation of church and state.
 - B. free exercise of religion.
- VI. Due process of law;
 - A. the "fair trial" rule; the composition of juries; confrontation of witnesses.
 - B. search and seizure of evidence; wiretapping and eavesdropping.
 - C. double jeopardy.
 - D. self-incrimination; the rights of witnesses in legislative investigations.
 - E. unlawful detention.
 - F. the right to counsel; the role of confessions.
 - G. cruel and unusual punishment.
 - H. the right to privacy.
- VII. Equal protection of the laws;
 - A. segregation, discrimination, and the Afro-American.
 1. public facilities.
 2. private businesses and accommodations.
 3. the problem of "state action" and its relation to federal statutes.
 - B. the rights of women.
- VIII. The right to vote in primary and general elections in the United States.