

**PSC 320-01: Civil Liberties  
Spring 2008  
Tuesday and Thursday, 2 – 3:15 pm  
Graham 424**

**Instructor & Office Hours:**

**Dr. Susan Johnson**

**Office: 233 Graham**

**Office Hours: Wednesdays 11 am – 2 pm, and by appointment**

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**Course Catalog Description:**

Case-method approach to issues involving civil liberties and civil rights. Examination of the historical evolution of Supreme Court decisions and evaluation of the Court's reassessment of previous decisions.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- To practice the skill of reading and analyzing written judicial opinions.
- To become familiar with the Bill of Rights and its interpretation by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- To explore the Court's treatment of individual liberties, including freedom of religion, free speech, freedom of the press, rights of the accused, and privacy
- To explore the states' obligation to provide protections against discrimination.

**Required Texts:**

Epstein, Lee and Thomas G. Walker. 2006. *Constitutional Law for a Changing America: Rights, Liberties and Justice*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press. (Available at the University Bookstore).

**Course Requirements:**

Class participation	10%
Ten (10) briefs	15%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%

**HARD COPIES OF ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE REQUIRED. I DO NOT ACCEPT EMAILED ASSIGNMENTS (NO EXCEPTIONS!)**

**Class Participation:**

Students are expected to regularly attend class and participate in discussion. This means that students should be prepared each class period to be called upon to answer questions relevant to the reading. Quality is more important than quantity in my evaluation of class participation. Class participation may also occasionally consist of assigned discussion questions for the following class period or a pop quiz, at the instructor's discretion.

**Case Briefs:**

Students should brief all of the assigned cases. Doing so will adequately prepare you for class discussion. It will also make studying for the exams much easier.

Ten (10) case briefs (of the students' choice) are required to be turned in during the semester. Students will sign-up for cases on blackboard. Students may only sign up for one case per day so that everyone has a chance to sign-up. It is up to the student to keep up with the number of briefs turned in and ensure that all ten (10) briefs are turned in by the last regular class period. Class briefs are due the day that the case is assigned, as indicated on the schedule. Late briefs will not be accepted.

### **Exams:**

Three in-class exams will be held during the semester. Exams will consist of multiple choice and/or short answer and essay questions. Success on these examinations will require a thorough understanding of the reading assignments and class discussions/lectures.

### **Late briefs/Missed exams**

Students are expected to turn briefs in on time and be present to take the exams at their scheduled times. Only in extraordinary circumstances will make-up opportunities exist. Students must notify me PRIOR to the missed exam or brief with a valid excuse and must be prepared to provide credible evidence (such as a written doctor's note) of the excuse. Excuses for late briefs and missed exams after the fact will not be allowed, resulting in a failing grade for the missed brief and/or exam. **It is the instructor's sole discretion to determine whether or not an excuse is acceptable.**

Make-up exams will be scheduled for the same day, time and place for everyone. I will announce the make-up exam time in class. Students will be allowed to make-up only one (1) exam during the semester.

### **Academic Honor Code:**

I expect all students in this course to abide by both the letter and spirit of the university's academic integrity policy. **Violations of the university honor code will be prosecuted.** The full text of the Academic Integrity Policy can be viewed at: <http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Policy/HonorPolicy.html>.

### **Students with Special Needs:**

Students with special needs should contact the instructor during the first week of class. I will make every effort to accommodate the needs of students with special requirements.

### **Assigned Readings:**

Students are expected to complete the assigned reading before class and be prepared to discuss the assigned cases.

### **Course schedule:**

Minor adjustments to the reading schedule may be made depending on how quickly material is covered. Students are responsible for keeping up with any schedule adjustments that are announced in class or on blackboard.

Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>: Course Introduction

Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>: Understanding the U.S. Supreme Court  
Read: Chapter 1  
Overview of briefing cases

Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>: Judicial Review and Power  
Read: *Marbury v. Madison*; *Ex Parte McCordle*

Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>: Incorporation  
Read: *Barron v. Baltimore* ; *Hurtado v. CA*; *Palko v. CT*;  
*Duncan v. LA*

Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>: Free Exercise  
Read: *Cantwell v. CT*, *Sherbert v. Verner*, *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, *Oregon v. Smith*

Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>: Free Exercise  
Read: *City of Boerne v. Flores*  
Establishment  
Read: *Everson v. Bd. of Educ.*, *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, *Agostini v. Felton*

Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>: Establishment  
Read: *Edwards v. Aguillard*, *Abington Township v. Schempp*, *Lee v. Weisman*, *Van Orden v. Perry*

Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>: Review for Exam I

Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>: EXAM I

Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>: Free Speech  
Read: *Schenck v. U.S.*, *Abrams v. U.S.*, *Gitlow v. NY*

Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>: Free Speech  
Read: *Dennis v. U.S.*, *Bradenburg v. Ohio*, *U.S. v. O'Brien*, *Tinker v. Des Moines*

Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>: Free Speech  
Read: *Texas v. Johnson*, *Chaplinsky v. NH*, *Cohen v. CA*, *Hill v. CO*

Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>: Free Speech  
Read: *RAV v. City of St. Paul*, *WV Bd. of Educ. v. Barnette*,  
*Rumsfeld v. Forum of Academic and Inst. Rights*, *Boy Scouts v. Dale*

Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>: Free Press  
Read: *Near v. MN*, *NY Times v. U.S.*, *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*

Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>: Obscenity  
Read: *Roth v. U.S.*, *Miller v. CA*, *NY v. Ferber*

Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>: Obscenity  
Read: *Ashcroft v. Free Speech Coalition*, *Reno v. ACLU*

Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>: SPRING BREAK  
Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>: SPRING BREAK

Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>: Libel  
Read: *NY Times v. Sullivan*, *Gertz v. Welch*, *Hustler Magazine v. Falwell*

Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>: Privacy  
Read: *Griswold v. CT, Roe v. Wade, Planned Parenthood v. Casey*

Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>: Privacy  
Read: *Lawrence v. Texas, Cruzan v. Missouri Dept. of Health*  
Review for Exam II

Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>: EXAM II

Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>: Fourth Amendment  
Read: *Katz v. U.S., Terry v. Ohio, Mapp v. Ohio, U.S. v. Leon*

Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>: NO CLASS

Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>: Fifth Amendment  
Read: *Escobedo v. Illinois, Miranda v. Arizona, Powell v. Alabama, Gideon v. Wainwright*

Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>: Sixth Amendment; Eighth Amendment  
Read: *Batson v. Kentucky, Gregg v. GA, Atkins v. VA*

Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>: Fourteenth Amendment  
Read: *Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown I, Brown II, Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg*

Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>: Fourteenth Amendment  
Read: *Shelley v. Kraemer, Burton v. Wilmington Parking, Moose Lodge v. Irvis*

Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Sex Discrimination  
Read: *Reed v. Reed, Frontiero v. Richardson, Craig v. Boren, U.S. v. VA*

Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>: Other forms of Discrimination  
Read: *Romer v. Evans, San Antonio v. Rodriguez, Plyer v. Doe*

Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>: Affirmative Action  
Read: *Regents of Univ. of CA v. Bakke, Adarand v. Pena, Grutter v. Bollinger*

Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>: Semester wrap-up  
Review for Final Exam

Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>: FINAL EXAM, 3:30 – 6:30 pm