

**Civil Rights & Liberties**  
**PSCI 4771-001**  
**12:30-1:45 Tues & Thurs GUGG 206**  
**Fall 2015**

Instructor: Janet Donovan  
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**Course Description:** This class explores the implementation of civil rights and civil liberties in the United States. In this class, we examine fundamental issues of free speech, press, association and religion along with rights to due process and equal protection under the law. In order to achieve these goals, we look at civil liberties and civil rights from legal, political and historical perspectives.

This is a small, seminar-style class. In this class, we will investigate student interests regarding civil liberties and rights and incorporate them into the class. Students are expected to come to class with readings completed and ready to discuss the material and ideas.

The course is divided into five sections. In the first section of the course, we examine civil liberties and civil rights generally, from a legal perspective, and focus on the role of the Supreme Court in defining and shaping how rights and liberties are implemented. In the second section, we explore the political struggle for African American civil rights, with a specific emphasis on the struggle in the Northern United States. In the third section, we hone in on the implementation of free speech in times of war. Then, we turn to learning from each other with student presentations in the fourth section of the class. Finally, we bring civil liberties and civil rights to the current point with an exploration of civil rights in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with specific emphasis on the effects of crime policy and policing on civil rights and liberties.

**Course Objectives:**

- 1) To better understand the constitutional and legal framework for civil liberties and rights in the United States
- 2) To gain an in-depth understanding of the politics of the struggle for civil rights in the Northern United States
- 3) To focus in on the challenges and conflicts surrounding free speech in times of war
- 4) To examine current threats and barriers to civil liberties and rights in the context of crime and policing
- 5) To improve critical thinking skills, and apply these skills to understanding the conflicts that arise in protecting civil liberties and civil rights in the face of competing demands for security and stability.
- 6) To improve writing and research skills through reading legal cases and social science research and writing case briefs and a political science research paper.
- 7) To improve the ability to communicate ideas publicly, through group activities and student presentations, as well as through class participation and discussion.

**Grading:**

Class Activities	14 points
Case Briefs	10 points
Midterm Exam	15 points
Semester Paper	20 points
Presentation	6 points
Attendance/Participation	15 points
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>20 points</u>
Total	100 points

**Scale:**

93-100	A
90-92	A-
88-89	B+
83-87	B
80-82	B-
78-79	C+
73-77	C
70-72	C-
60-69	D
≤ 59	F

**Required Texts:**

Domino, John C. 2010. *Civil Rights and Liberties in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Longman.

Sugrue, Thomas J. 2009. *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North*. New York: Random House.

Stone, Geoffrey R. 2004. *Perilous Times: Free Speech in Wartime: From the Sedition Act of 1798 to the War on Terrorism*. New York: Norton.

Additional texts, as posted on D2L.

**Course Requirements:**

**Class Activities and short papers:** We will engage in several group activities over the course of the semester. The first activity will be on Thursday, August 27. More information about subsequent activities will be provided later in the semester. Class activities are valued at a total of 14 points or 14 percent of the final grade. It is very important to complete the short papers on time, bring them to the class activities, and to be in class for the activities. Alternate make-up assignments will be provided only in cases of documented family or medical emergency, religious observances, or for approved university-sanctioned activities. If physically possible, the instructor must be notified in advance, and in accordance with course policies, of these absences in order to receive a make-up assignment.

**Case Briefs:** Students are required to choose a topic area and research the 5-8 most important Supreme Court cases on the topic, writing up case briefs of these key cases, due Thursday, October 8 in class. More information on this assignment and instructions on briefing cases will be provided later in the course. This assignment is valued at a total of 10 points or 10 percent of the final grade. Late assignments will lose ½ point per day.

**Midterm Exam:** The midterm exam will consist of a combination of term identifications, short essays and long essays in an in-class blue book exam. All students must take the midterm exam in class on Tuesday, October 20. More information on the format of the exam will be given later in the semester, and a study guide will be provided the class period before the exam. The exam is worth 15 points of the final grade and is required to receive a passing grade in the course. Make-up exams will be given only in cases of documented medical or family emergency, religious observances or university absences related to participation in university-sanctioned activities. If it is physically possible, the instructor must be notified in advance of such an emergency. All make-ups are at the instructor's discretion and would be in a different format than the original.

**Semester Paper:** Continuing with the topic area researched in the case briefs, students are required to write a 10-12 page, double-spaced research paper on a topic of significance in civil rights or civil liberties, due November 17 in class and on D2L. More information on the paper will be given later in the semester. Students are required to turn in a paper to receive a passing grade in the class. Late papers will lose 1 point per day. The paper is valued at 20 points or 20 percent of the final grade.

**Presentation:** Each student will make a short (5-8 minute) presentation to the class of the semester paper in class. In addition, students will post a presentation on D2L. More information will be provided on presentations later in the semester. The presentation is worth 6 points- 3 points for the in-class portion and 3 points for the digital portion on D2L. Presentations will take place on November 17 & 19.

**Attendance/Participation:** Students are required to be in class each day and to participate in class discussions. Because this is an upper-division class that encourages and requires students to work through the ideas and material, the class cannot be successful without your attendance and participation. Attendance will be taken in class each day, and students will be penalized for more than 2 unexcused absences. Participation will also be noted and graded qualitatively.

Please keep in mind that not all talking is going to enhance your participation grade, and that participating cannot make up for lack of attendance or vice versa. The best way to earn the attendance and participation points is to be in class every day with the readings completed and ready to discuss. Attendance and participation are worth a total of 15 points.

**Final Exam:** All students must take the final exam at the assigned time of Sunday, December 13 from 7:30-10pm in the regular classroom. The final will consist of term identifications and essay questions in a blue book exam. One essay question will be comprehensive; the rest of the exam will cover material since the midterm. More information on the format of the exam will be given later in the semester. The exam is worth 20 points of the final grade and is required to receive a passing grade in the course. Make-up finals will be given only in cases of documented medical or family emergency, religious observances or university absences related to participation in university-sanctioned activities, or with documentation of a final exam time conflict in accordance with CU policy. Again, if it is physically possible, the instructor must be notified in advance of such an emergency. All make-ups are at the instructor's discretion and would be in a different format than the original.

### **Course Policies:**

**Course communications:** Email is the official mode of communication for the University of Colorado at Boulder. Students are required to regularly check their @colorado.edu email (at least every 48 hours) for updates regarding the course. Students are responsible for receiving any messages sent by the instructor to the class email list, or individually to the student. Students are responsible for ensuring that any email sent by the student to the instructor is received. In addition, students are responsible for checking the D2L site for the course regularly, and for completing any assignments on D2L on time.

**Contacting the Instructor:** Please feel free to contact me with questions about the course. The best ways to reach me are to come by office hours, or to email. You may also call my office phone, but that is a less efficient means of reaching me. I always answer email within 48 hours, so if you do not receive a reply, that means I did not get your email and you should try to contact me again. When addressing me, please address me in person or in email as Janet, Professor Donovan or Dr. Donovan.

**Course Etiquette:** Students are expected to come to class on time and stay the entire time. If it is necessary to come late or leave early, please let me know in advance. If your schedule does not permit you to be on time and in class on a regular basis, please take another course. Students are expected to be respectful of each other and of the instructor; lively debate is encouraged, but personal attacks are prohibited. These guidelines should be obvious, and they will help to make the course a more enjoyable experience for all. For more information on University requirements regarding classroom behavior please see <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code).

**Electronic Devices:** Electronic devices, including computers and mobile phones, are prohibited in class. The use of these devices causes serious disruption in class and affects the learning of other students. Computers, phones and other devices must be turned off and put away during class. Students may appeal this policy on an individual basis by coming to office hours and providing sufficient reason why an exception to the policy is necessary. Exceptions to this policy are at the instructor's discretion.

**Honor code:** All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. In this course, students will receive a 0 on any assignment in which the honor code is violated. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode>

**Students with disabilities:** If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>.

**Religious observances:** Students with religious observances that conflict with course requirements will be accommodated whenever possible. In order to ensure such accommodation, students must notify the instructor within the first 2 weeks of the course to allow time to make such arrangements. For more information on the University policy, please see [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

**Discrimination and harassment:** The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, pregnancy, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

### **Course Schedule:**

Readings are to be completed BEFORE class on the assigned day.

#### Week 1: August 25 & 27

Tues: Introduction to the course, pass out syllabus

#### *Section 1: The Role of the Supreme Court: United States Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Over Time*

Thurs: In-class activity: establishing course research questions on civil rights and liberties

**Short paper due in class:** What is the most important question facing the United States in relation to civil rights and/or civil liberties? Why is this question important? What kind of information might help us understand or answer this question in class this semester? Paper should be 1-2 pages, double-spaced. Completing the paper and the activity are valued at 4 points or 4% of the course grade. Students will be sharing ideas from the paper with the class as we establish our research questions for the course.

#### Week 2: September 1 & 3

Tues: Civil Rights & Civil Liberties: Role of the Supreme Court

Readings: Domino, chapter 1

Thurs: Freedom of Expression

Readings: Domino, chapter 2

#### Week 3: September 8 & 10

Tues: Religious Freedom

Readings: Domino, chapter 3

Thurs: Due Process and the Rights of the Accused

Readings: Domino, chapter 4

#### Week 4: September 15 & 17

Tues: The Right to Privacy

Readings: Domino, chapter 5

Thurs: Recent Supreme Court Trends

Readings: Domino, chapter 7

#### Week 5: September 22 & 24

Tues: The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment and Equal Protection of the Law

Readings: Domino, chapter 6

Thurs: How to find and brief court cases & In-class activity: What have we learned about our research questions?

**Short paper due in class:** What have we learned about our research questions? What do we still not know about our research questions? How should we continue to look for answers and information about our questions? Paper should be 1-2 pages, double-spaced. Completing the paper and the activity are valued at 4

points or 4% of the course grade. Students will be sharing ideas from the paper with the class as we continue investigating our research questions for the course.

*Section 2: The Politics of the Struggle for Civil Rights: Focus on the North*

Week 6: September 29 & October 1

Tues: The Struggle for Civil Rights in the North

Readings: Sugrue, Introduction, chapters 1-3

Thurs: The Struggle for Civil Rights in the North

Readings: Sugrue, chapters 4-5

Week 7: October 6 & 8

Tues: The Struggle for Civil Rights in the North

Readings: Sugrue, chapters 6-7

Thurs: The Struggle for Civil Rights in the North

Readings: Sugrue, chapters 8-10

**CASE BRIEFS DUE IN CLASS AND ON D2L**

Week 8: October 13 & 15

Tues: The Struggle for Civil Rights in the North

Readings: Sugrue, chapters 11-12

Thurs: The Struggle for Civil Rights in the North

Readings: Sugrue, chapters 13-14

Week 9: October 20 & 22

Tues: **MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS**

Thurs: In-class activity: What have we learned about our research questions?

**Short paper due in class:** What have we learned about our research questions? More detail on the topic of this paper will be provided closer to the due date. Paper should be 1-2 pages, double-spaced. Completing the paper and the activity are valued at 4 points or 4% of the course grade. Students will be sharing ideas from the paper with the class as we continue investigating our research questions for the course.

*Section 3: Civil Liberties and the Politics of Free Speech in Wartime*

Week 10: October 27 & 29

Tues: Free Speech and War: Early Conflicts in the United States

Readings: Stone, Introduction, chapter 1

Thurs: Free Speech and the Civil War

Readings: Stone, chapter 2

Week 11: November 3 & 5

Tues: Free Speech, World War I, and the “Clear and Present Danger” Test

Readings: Stone, chapter 3

Thurs: World War II and the Dangers of Consensus

Readings: Stone, chapter 4

Week 12: April 8 & 10

Tues: The Cold War and Dissent

Readings: Stone, chapter 5

Thurs: Free Speech from Vietnam through the War Terror

Readings: Stone, chapter 6 and Conclusion

*Section 4: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: Learning from Each Other*

Week 13: November 17 & 19

Tues: Student Presentations in class and on D2L

**SEMESTER PAPER DUE IN CLASS AND ON D2L**

Thurs: Student Presentations in class and on D2L

FALL BREAK AND THANKSGIVING, NO CLASS NOVEMBER 24 or 26

*Section 5: Civil Rights in the United States in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

Week 14: December 1 & 3

Tues: Policing, crime policy and civil rights and liberties

Readings: TBA

Thurs: Policing, crime policy and civil rights and liberties

Readings: TBA

Week 15: December 8 & 10

Tues: In class activity: Policing, crime policy and civil rights and liberties

More information will be provided closer to the activity. Participating in the activity is valued at 2 points or 2% of the final grade

Thurs: Drawing Conclusions about Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in the United States

**FINAL EXAM, Sunday December 13 7:30-10pm in regular classroom**