

HC 229 CIVIL RIGHTS - A MODERN APPROACH

FACULTY: GERY LYNN YANOW
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BA in Liberal Arts from UICC - MA in English Literature from New York University - JD from IIT/Chicago Kent Law School in 1988 while working as a teacher; traveled extensively throughout US, Europe; spent 1 year traveling through Africa, spent summer during college working for YMCA in Quito, Ecuador; taught 4th grade, 8th grade, reading and library science in the Chicago Public Schools for over 20 years; 1990 to present, employed as a trial attorney for the City of Chicago, specializing in civil rights defense; taught at SNL since 1994.

LOCATION: Barat Campus

DATES AND TIME: Winter – 2004, Saturdays, January 3, 2004 through March 13, 2004
(11 Sessions) 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

COMPETENCIES: (Students have registered for one or two of the following:)

A-1-D: Can analyze writers' or artists' representations of human experience.

H-1-F: Can describe and explain the roles of individuals, groups, societies or states in history.

H-2-A: Can understand a social problem and can analyze the effectiveness of social institutions in addressing it.

F-X: Understands the impact of civil rights on the workplace and can analyze the underlying constitutional, legislative and judicial processes.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

SECTION 1983 LITIGATION (IN A NUTSHELL)...Michael G. Collins, 1997 (or latest edition). West Publishing
MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT....Edited by Peter Irons and Stephanie Guitton. The New Press, 1993.
Black's Law Dictionary

COURSE DESCRIPTION: CIVIL RIGHTS - A MODERN APPROACH

What exactly are civil rights? Where do these rights come from and how does modern society deal with them? This course will deal with constitutional protections and safeguards currently called "Civil Rights". We will explore the role of government in these civil rights and how that role has evolved. Students will analyze various court decisions, current events and their own experiences in order to examine the relationship between government agencies (such as police and fire departments and boards of education) and citizens. The focus of this course will be on how modern society should handle civil rights issues which involve race, gender, disability, education, employment and privacy in the 21st Century.

Class participation is key. In order to achieve these goals we must be prepared for each class and we all must actively participate in each class.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION:

One essay quiz consisting of one to three questions based on the reading assignments and class lectures and discussions. 15%

Two class debates (instructor will pick the sides and participants) dealing with case presentations.

Class participation (including case presentations) 20%

A final take home exam which will incorporate your competencies as well as the substance of the course.

ASSIGNMENT (Tentative Schedule)

- (1) January 3 Discussion Syllabus - Competencies - Expectations (case presentations)
Civil Rights - What are they? Where do they come from?
Natural Rights
Fundamental Rights
Civil Rights

Assignments:

United States v. Nixon
Monroe v. Pape
DeShaney v. Winnebago County

Nutshell - Chapters 1 and 2
Review US Constitution - 1st, 4th, 5th, 8th, 13th, 14th, 15th
Amendments

- (2) January 10 Discussion Separation of powers
Case Presentations -
United States v. Nixon
Monroe v. Pape
DeShaney v. Winnebago County

Assignments

Tinker v. Des Moines
Cox v. Louisiana
Communist party v. Subversive Activities
Nutshell - Chapter 4

- (3) January 17 Library Assignment

- (4) January 24 Discussion 1st, 4th Amendments -
Case presentations
Tinker v. Des Moines
Cox v. Louisiana
Communist party v. Subversive Activities

Quiz

Assignments

Parratt v. Taylor
Heart of Atlanta Motel v. US
Loving v. Virginia
Regents v. Bakke
Nutshell - Chapter 3

- (5) January 31 Discussion 14th Amendment
Equal Protection, Due Process
Case presentations
Parratt v. Taylor
Heart of Atlanta Motel v. US
Loving v. Virginia
Regents v. Bakke

Assignments

Roe v. Wade
Bowers v. Hardwick

Nutshell - Chapter 18

- (6) February 7 Discussion 14th Amendment
Substantive Due process
Case presentations
Roe v. Wade
Bowers v. Hardwick
- Class Debate
- Assignments
Terry v. Ohio
Miranda v. Arizona
Leatherman v. Tarrant County
Graham v. Connor
Nutshell - Chapter 6
- (7) February 14 Discussion Municipal Liability
Case presentations
Terry v. Ohio
Miranda v. Arizona
Leatherman v. Tarrant County
Graham v. Connor
- Assignments
Heck v. Humphrey
Nutshell - Chapters 7, 8
- (8) February 21 Discussion Immunities
Case Presentation
Heck v. Humphrey
- Class Debate
- Assignments
Tennessee v. Garner
Illinois v. Wardlow
Wren v. United States
Commonwealth v. Gonsalves
- (9) February 28
- Discussion Racial profiling
4th Amendment
- Case presentations
Tennessee v. Garner
Illinois v. Wardlow
Wren v. United States
Commonwealth v. Gonsalves
- Assignments
Bush v. Gore

Atwater v. City of Lago Vista
Illinois v. McArthur
Kyllo v. U.S.

Final Exams distributed and discussed

(10) March 6

Discussion

14th Amendment - Equal Protection
Case presentations

Bush v. Gore
Atwater v. City of Lago Vista
Illinois v. McArthur
Kyllo v. U.S.

(11) March 13 FINAL EXAM DUE