

**Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**  
POLS 4710-22672  
Spring 2017

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:20 pm - 1:10 pm

Instructor     **Dr. A.J. Barghothi**  
Office:         320J Holmes-Hunter Academic building  
Office hours:   Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (or by appointment)  
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**Course Description:**

This course focuses on two of the central concepts in American society, liberty and equality. The primary objective of this course is to acquaint students with the substantive meaning of the protections of liberty and equality contained in the United States Constitution. After discussing the process by which the justices take on and decide cases, we will address the specific content of the decisions issued by the Court, so that by the end of the course students will have considered both the contemporary meaning of the Bill of Rights and the historical evolution of doctrines that have led to our current understanding.

**Required Text:**

Epstein, Lee, and Thomas G. Walker. 2016. *Constitutional Law for a Changing America: Rights, Liberties, and Justice*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Congressional Quarterly Press.

**Course Requirements & Policies:**

- *Reading Assignments:* All reading assignments for this course are in the Epstein and Walker text. Because this is likely to be your first experience reading law, you may find the required readings intense and a bit challenging at first. You should, however, adjust to the nature of the reading after a few weeks and comprehending the judicial opinions will become easier for you. It is critical that you completely read (rather than skim) the assigned readings for each class period, so that you are acquainted with the case facts and outcomes of the cases in each chapter. It is suggested that you devote either two, 1 1/2-2 hour blocks or one, 3-6 hour block of time for each week's reading assignment in order to appropriately comprehend the material.
- *Attendance and Class Participation:* Although I do not take attendance, students are expected to attend all classes as you are responsible for all of the material covered in class on the midterm and final exam. If you do miss a class, you should obtain a copy of class notes from a classmate because you are expected to know all course material for exams. I will not reply to student emails requesting my notes for missed classes.

Fifteen percent of your final grade will be determined by class participation. All students are expected to thoughtfully participate in class discussion. Your participation will enhance the class lectures by incorporating your own understanding of readings and any questions or statements you may have about the material. While attendance is a prerequisite for participation, attendance is not participation. You should be prepared each class session to be randomly called on to discuss specific facts and legal decisions for the cases assigned each day.

The participation portion of your final grade will be based on the following scale and criteria:

- **A:** A student attends virtually all class sessions (fewer than two absences) for the full amount of time and participates in class discussions by answering questions and offering insightful comments or asking questions during most class sessions.
  - **B:** A student attends a significant portion of class sessions (fewer than four absences) and participates in class discussions by answering questions and offering insightful comments or asking questions during some class sessions.
  - **C:** A student misses a significant portion of class sessions (more than four absences) and was only marginally prepared for class and participates in class discussions infrequently—answering questions only when called upon and rarely offering meaningful comments or questions during class sessions.
  - **D:** A student misses a significant portion of class sessions (more than six absences) and was only marginally prepared for class and participates in class discussions infrequently—answering questions only when called upon and rarely offering meaningful comments or questions during class sessions.
  - **F:** A student misses a significant portion of class sessions (more than eight absences) and was unprepared for class, never participating in class discussions or answering questions.
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- *Quizzes:* Between seven and ten quizzes will be given throughout the semester, in order to ascertain students' comprehension of the course material. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped from your final grade. No make-up quizzes will be given; if you miss a class when a quiz is given you will receive a zero for that quiz. Thirteen percent of your final grade will be determined by your quiz average.
  - *Exams:* Two exams, a midterm and a final, will be given in this course. Thirty-four percent of your final grade will be determined by a midterm exam. The midterm will be given over the course of two class sessions (tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 1 and Friday, March 3). Thirty-eight percent of your final grade will be determined by a comprehensive final exam. The final exam will be given on the scheduled exam date for this course (Friday, April 28 - 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm). Both the midterm and final exam will integrate materials from class lectures and discussions and readings, and will include true-false, multiple choice, definitions, and short essay questions. **Make-up exams will be given only in extreme circumstances and on a case by case basis at the instructor's convenience.**
  - *Disability Statement:* If you have a physical, learning, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please make me aware of your situation as soon as possible. You must register with, and provide documentation of your disability to University Disability Resource Center in Clark Howell Hall.
  - *Academic Honesty:* The University of Georgia is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty (including plagiarism and all other offenses listed under University's policy on academic honesty) will not be tolerated. Any violations of University policy will be handled through University procedures. For more information on the University policy see *A Culture of Honesty at the*

*University of Georgia* issued by the Office of the Vice President for Instruction at:  
<https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty>

**Evaluation:**

Participation	15%
Quizzes	13%
Midterm Exam	34%
Final Exam	38%
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	100%

Your final grade will be assigned in the following manner:

A	94-100	A-	90-93		
B+	89-87	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	79-77	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D	60-69	F	0-59		

### Tentative Class Schedule

Friday, January 6	Class introduction
Monday, January 9	<i>The Constitution &amp; the Supreme Court</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 3-43 & 91-94
Wednesday, January 11	<i>The Constitution &amp; the Supreme Court</i> (continued)
Friday, January 13	<i>The Constitution &amp; the Supreme Court</i> (continued)
Monday, January 16	<b>No class</b> —Martin Luther King Jr.
Wednesday, January 18	<i>Judicial Powers &amp; Constraints</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 45-56
Friday, January 20	<i>Judicial Powers &amp; Constraints</i> (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 57-65
Monday, January 23	<i>Incorporation of the Bill of Rights</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 66-86
Wednesday, January 25	Freedom of Religion— <i>Defining Religion</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 95-100
Friday, January 27	Freedom of Religion— <i>Free Exercise</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 100-115
Monday, January 30	Freedom of Religion— <i>Free Exercise</i> (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 115-131
Wednesday, February 1	Freedom of Religion— <i>Establishment</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 131-162
Friday, February 3	Freedom of Religion— <i>Establishment</i> (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 162-176
Monday, February 6	Freedom of Religion— <i>Establishment</i> (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 176-190
Wednesday, February 8	Freedom of Expression ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 191-205
Friday, February 10	Freedom of Expression (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 205-224
Monday, February 13	Freedom of Expression (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 224-233 & 258-262
Wednesday, February 15	Freedom of Expression (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 233-253
Friday, February 17	Freedom of Expression— <i>Limits</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 335-488
Monday, February 20	Freedom of the Press ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 293-309
Wednesday, February 22	Freedom of the Press (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 309-320
Friday February 24	Freedom of the Press— <i>Libel</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 321-355
Monday, February 27	Midterm Review
Wednesday, March 1	<b>Midterm Exam</b> (Day 1)
Friday, March 3	<b>Midterm Exam</b> (Day 2)
Monday, March 6	<b>No class</b> —Spring Break
Wednesday, March 8	<b>No class</b> —Spring Break

Friday, March 10	<b>No class</b> —Spring Break
Monday, March 13	The Right to Privacy ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 390-401
Wednesday, March 15	The Right to Privacy (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 401-427
Friday, March 17	The Right to Privacy (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 427-456
Monday, March 20	<i>Rights of the Accused—Introduction; Arrest; Search &amp; Seizure</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 463-483
Wednesday, March 22	<i>Rights of the Accused—Arrest; Search &amp; Seizure</i> (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 483-493
Friday, March 24	<i>Rights of the Accused—The Exclusionary Rule</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 498-514
Monday, March 27	<i>Rights of the Accused—Self-Incrimination</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 514-535
Wednesday, March 29	<i>Rights of the Accused—Counsel</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 536-546
Friday, March 31	<i>Rights of the Accused—Trials</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 548-568
Monday, April 3	<i>Rights of the Accused—Sentencing; Post-Trial Protection</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 568-593
Wednesday, April 5	<i>Civil Rights—Introduction; Race</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 601-614
Friday, April 7	<i>Civil Rights—Race</i> (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 614-626
Monday, April 10	<i>Civil Rights—Race</i> (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 626-640 & 644-648
Wednesday, April 12	<i>Civil Rights—Gender</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 669-688
Friday, April 14	<i>Civil Rights—Sexual Orientation &amp; Economic Status</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 688-706
Monday, April 17	<i>Civil Rights—Remedying Discrimination</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 648-669
Wednesday, April 19	<i>Voting and Representation</i> ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 717-741
Friday, April 21	<i>Voting and Representation</i> (continued) ▪ Epstein & Walker pp. 741-7768
Monday, April 24	Catchup Day
Wednesday, April 26	Final Review
Friday, April 28 (12:00 pm -3:00 pm)	<b>Final Exam</b>