Course Description: In this course students will study the legal analyses that emanate from the juxtaposition of majoritarian cultural norms, perceived societal needs and the constitutional mandates of personal freedom and equality. The focus will be on U.S. Supreme Court decisions in which the Court has interpreted our constitutional rights through the filters of history, tradition, governmental roles and our evolving public norms. Students are expected to gain substantive knowledge of our Constitution, particularly the First and Fourteenth Amendments, as well as the penumbra of implied fundamental rights. Students will develop the analytical skills to critically explore the role of constitutional rights within a democratic system of government.


U.S. Constitution -- Internet or pamphlet format

Semester Grading

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(March 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>(random dates after Jan 31)</td>
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<td>Essay Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>(April 18)</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>(May 9)</td>
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94% and above: A
90-93.99%: A-
86-89.99%: B+
82-85.99%: B
77-81.99%: C+
72-76.99%: C
65-71.99%: D
64.99 and below: F

Emails: It is my intention to promptly respond to student emails that are related to course topics but I will not be checking email each day or multiple times each day. To expedite a response, your email heading should include the designation “Govt 423--Wednesday.” If I do not respond within 36 hours, resend your email.

Essay and Testing Policies
All work must be completed at the designated time. In case of an extreme emergency, verified by complete written documentation, and at the sole discretion of the instructor, some work may be rescheduled, but any make-up work may be more difficult than the original and may be in a different format.

*Use of notes during quizzes, midterm and final exam.*
Students are encouraged to bring handwritten, personally prepared notes to the Midterm Exam (one page of notes) and the final exam (two pages of notes). In addition, students are encouraged to bring in one page of handwritten, personally prepared notes to each class--these notes may be used if there is an unannounced quiz on the assigned reading that day.
Notes can be prepared subsequent to a group study session but notes not written by the individual student cannot be used. Notes must be in paper format; computers cannot be accessed during a test. Using notes prepared by another student, whether from this semester or a prior semester, is a violation of the honor code.

*Make up Work*
To qualify for a make up work or a delayed assessment:
Submit a written explanation/documentation within four days of the missed assessment. Emailed explanations do *not* fulfill the requirement for submitted documentation but the applicable email may be printed, signed, and submitted as the written explanation. A request for a make up assessment/assignment must be based on a personal, unavoidable problem that made attendance exceedingly difficult. A substitute assignment may be more difficult than the original and may be in a different format. Make up quizzes will be given on the day of the final exam to those who qualify. A make up quiz can be based on the reading for any day of the semester and will not necessarily coincide with the day the student was absent from class. A request for an extension of time for the essay assignment is rarely granted; however any such request will be considered if the request is timely and well documented.

Submission of Essay and Grading Penalty
The Essay Paper must be submitted both to Blackboard and in hardcopy paper format in class on the due date, by the designated time. (April 18 - 4:40 in class, 4:30 to Bb.) A late dual submission of a paper without legitimate excuse, written documentation and instructor approval of the delay, can result in a reduction of fifteen grading points for each day it is late. The day-late-penalty will be assessed in full immediately after the designated submission time and such penalty will reoccur and accumulate each subsequent day at the same designated time.

An emailed or Blackboard submitted paper cannot substitute for the hardcopy submission. However, if a student has a genuine emergency that makes on-time delivery of the paper version impossible, the student can (1) Blackboard and email the paper by deadline, (2) assure that the emailed paper was received, (3) submit the hardcopy within 5 days, (4) attach documentation of the emergency to the hardcopy and (5) attach a copy of the email related to the original submission of the paper. Following all these steps may result in a waiver or diminution of the late penalty. A paper submitted subsequent to deadline should follow the same steps. In some cases the date/time of the electronic late submission can qualify as the cut off for the accrual of penalties, provided that the remaining steps listed above are followed.

Work in progress should be saved in multiple formats on a regular basis well in advance of the actual due date. Last minute problems do not usually qualify as valid reasons for a late paper.
Summary of course work:

1. Class Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and to be fully prepared to discuss that day’s reading assignment. Students should arrive on time and stay until the end of class. In-class computer use must be related to this course. Students may not use other telecommunication devices during class time. Students will be called on randomly to discuss the day’s reading.

2. Quizzes (random unannounced dates after January 31) (25% of final grade): On random dates students will be given a quiz on that day’s reading assignment and current class material. The top three quiz grades will be averaged for the grade in this category. Students may use one page of handwritten notes for any quiz. If a quiz is given at the beginning of the class session, students who arrive late may not be able to take the quiz.

3. Midterm Exam (March 7) (25% of final grade): The midterm will cover the reading and lectures from the beginning of the term. At the teacher’s discretion, students who arrive more than 10 minutes late may not be able to take the test. Students may use one page of handwritten notes for this test. Scantron 882-E needed.

4. Essay Paper (April 18 – 4:40 in class, 4:30 to Bb) (25% of final grade): Each student must write a six to ten page essay in response to a legal scenario that will be provided by the teacher. There will be a separate document that gives the instructions for this writing assignment but the main task is to use only designated material from this course\(^1\) to analyze the scenario. Grade: 30% writing; 35% selection & use of case law; 35% analysis.

Generally, students may revise their graded Essay Paper for a chance to earn a maximum of ten additional points up to a revised final grade of 95. Students who submit a late paper may not earn back the penalty points and may only earn a maximum revised grade of 90. Revisions will only be examined if the following rules are met: (a) return the original graded paper (with my marks on it and the attached grading sheet), (b) submit a revised paper, (c) highlight the changes & additions on the revised version so I can immediately and efficiently know how you revised the original paper. If these conditions are not met, there will be no change in the paper grade.

The number of revision points is at the discretion of the professor, based on a student’s meaningful efforts at revision, and will not follow the original grading categories for the essay.

5. Final Exam (4:30 Wednesday, May 9) (25% of final grade): The final exam will take place on May 9, beginning at 4:30 and concluding at 5:45 p.m. The test will be cumulative and will require the use of a Scantron form 882-E. Students may bring two pages of handwritten notes to this test.

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\(^1\) Only certain court case decisions will qualify; details will be in the instruction sheet.
Other course information:

Class Syllabus and GMU Email Accounts
The instructor may modify the attached class schedule and any such change will be announced in class and/or by email or Blackboard at the earliest opportunity. Students must activate their GMU email and Blackboard accounts and check for class notices on a regular basis.

Class Enrollment
Each student should verify enrollment in this class with the registrar's office no later than January 31. This is also the last day to drop this class without any tuition penalty.

February 24 is the last day to drop this class—with a severe tuition penalty. After this date, withdrawing requires approval from a dean and must be based on non-academic reasons. Undergraduate students may qualify for a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures and the deadline for this option. Students with nonacademic special hardships may also qualify for an Incomplete per university procedures.

HONOR CODE
The GMU Honor Code requires the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying and stealing are prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported. See honorcode.gmu.edu for more information.

If a student’s academic work or any communication related to this course contains an honor code violation, the student's work product may receive a grade of zero. In most instances a violation of the honor code results in a failing grade for the entire semester. Students may freely discuss this course's assignments with others, may form study groups, and may seek feedback and guidance from others. However, all work products, as well as the notes permitted for tests, must be the sole work of the individual student. Students may discuss the essay assignment with other students but these discussions should not result in a shared outline for the final paper.

Academic and/or Physical Accommodations
Students must notify the instructor as soon as possible regarding any special needs. Many requests for academic accommodations should be initially processed through the Office of Disability Resources. This office can be reached at 993-2474.
**Schedule of Reading Assignments**

*Some supplemental cases will be assigned and posted on Blackboard. On all class meeting dates students should complete the designated reading prior to the class session. Unless otherwise indicated, the page number indicates the first page of the assigned case—these cases should be read in their entirety as presented in the textbook.*

**Class # 1 Wednesday, January 25**
**Introduction**
Introduction—p. 3 to 31, 47-48; 57-65
Review 14th Amendment section 1 & 5 (749) Marbury v. Madison (48) Table (581), Crawford v. Marion County (707)

**Class # 2 Wednesday, February 1**
**Equal Protection**

**Class # 3 Wednesday, February 8**
**Equal Protection**
Shelley v. Kraemer (617), Moose Lodge v. Irvis (622), Reed v. Reed (626), Craig v. Boren (630), United States v. Virginia (635) Romer v. Evans (643)

**Class # 4 Wednesday, February 15**
**Equal Protection & Autonomy**

**Class # 5 Wednesday, February 22**
**Autonomy**
Griswold v. Connecticut (388), Roe v. Wade (396 skim read only), Planned Parenthood v. Casey (409), Lawrence v. Texas (422), Boy Scouts v. Dale (285)

**Class # 6 Wednesday, February 29**
**Freedom of Expression**
Review for Midterm
Essay Assignment emailed and discussed

**Class # 7 Wednesday, March 7**
**Midterm & Freedom of Expression**
Midterm 4:30-5:10
Class lecture 5:25-6:45

**No Class on March 14—Spring Break**

**Class # 8 Wednesday, March 21**
**Freedom of Expression**
**Class # 9  Wednesday, March 28  **  Freedom of Expression

**Class # 10  Wednesday, April 4  **  Freedom of Religion

**Class # 11  Wednesday, April 11  **  Freedom of Religion

**Class # 12  Wednesday, April 18  **  Essay Due and Search and Seizure

*Essay due* in classroom by 4:40, to Bb by 4:30
early submissions to faculty office/mailbox no later than 4:15 p.m.

Lecture begins at 4:40

**Class # 13  Wednesday, April 25  **  Criminal Justice; Second Amendment

**Class # 14  Wednesday, May 2  **  Rights in National Crises and Semester Review
D.C. v. Heller (377), Korematsu v. United States (Internet), Eisentrager v. Johnson (Internet), Hamdi v. Rumsfeld (Internet) and Boumediene v. Bush (Internet)

Review for End of Term Test
& Graded Essays Returned

**Wednesday, May 9  4:30 to 5:45 p.m.  **  Final Exam

Final Exam  Scantron 882-E needed

Revised papers due at the end of the exam period.

Make up quizzes will be given to those who qualify—
only notes prepared in advance of lectures may be used for a make up quiz