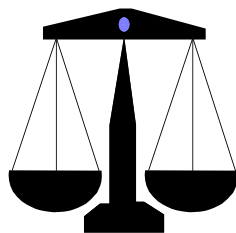


CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND CIVIL RIGHTS

POL – K212

**Leslie W. Williams Jr.
Three Rivers Community College
Norwich, Connecticut 06360**

Fall 2010



I. **COURSE TITLE:** Constitutional Law and Civil Rights

II. **SPECIAL COURSE INFORMATION:**

- A. Course Number: POL-K212 T1 - CRN 31483 (3 Semester Credit Hours)
- B. Location: Room E225
- C. Day/Time: Tuesday: 6:30 PM – 9:15 PM
- D. Prerequisites: Placement test score indicating ENG* K101 or completion of ENG* K100 with a “C” grade or better.

III. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An intensive study and analysis of the United States Constitution and especially the Amendments to that Constitution which protect each citizen's civil rights; a study and review of court decisions which interpret the Constitution; a comprehensive study of court decisions which determine police policy and a consideration of specific guidelines which must be followed in the criminal justice process.

IV. **RATIONALE:**

The United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights are every citizen's written guarantee that the force of government will not be harnessed against him arbitrarily. These two hallowed documents stand solidly as an effective barrier against unfair or unjust use of governmental power. It is essential that every citizen have an understanding of the Constitutional limitations on police powers and the rules and procedures that have been developed concerning them. For those taking this course as an elective, it will prove valuable in developing an understanding of the impact that our Constitution has on our daily lives.

V. **GENERAL COURSE GOALS:**

This course will assist the student in understanding not only the provisions of the Constitution but also the reasons for the adoption of it and the events, which influence the courts in interpreting it.

- A. Students should acquire a general understanding of the structure and content of the United States Constitution. This includes knowledge of:
 - 1. the powers granted to the United States Government;
 - 2. their separation among the President, Congress, and the Judiciary;
 - 3. the balance of powers between the federal government and the states;
 - 4. the content of the Bill of Rights;
 - 5. Fourteenth Amendment limitations on the actions of state government.
- B. Students should acquire an in-depth understanding of constitutional and statutory restrictions on the authority of the police to:
 - 1. investigate, interrogate persons and search for evidence;
 - 2. detain or arrest persons and seizure of evidence;
 - 3. use of physical and deadly force;
 - 4. compel suspects to submit procedures involving the use of their bodies as a source of evidence against them (i.e., lineups, blood samples etc.).

V. **GOALS (Con't):**

- C. Student should be able to read and brief court decisions and cases and identify procedural rules of law and enforcement guidelines that result from such decisions.
- D. Students should develop an understanding of the individual rights afforded to persons involved in the criminal justice process.

VI. **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:**

Lectures, discussions, handouts, reading and writing assignments, class participation, case histories, written responses to study questions, visual aids and the use of current events to highlight materials presented in class.

VII. **REQUIRED TEXT:**

- A. "Constitutional Law", by Jacqueline R. Kanovitz, 12th Edition, LexisNexis Anderson Publishing, Newark, NJ. (2010).

VIII. **EVALUATION PROCEDURES:**

- A. **Written Quizzes** - Three (3) objective written quizzes will be given as follows:

- (1) Chapters 1 through 3 - On or about **October 5th** (6th Session)
- (2) Chapters 4 and 6 - On or about **November 2nd** (10th Session)
- (3) Chapters 7 through 10 - On or about **December 7th** (14th Session)

- B. **Case Briefs** - FOUR (4) typewritten briefs on cases assigned in class. ***Late papers will be docked 10 points for EACH WEEK they are late.*** Format for the briefs will be discussed in class.

- C. **Study Questions** - FIVE (5) typewritten responses to questions as assigned. Students must explain or defend their position thoroughly on the question assigned. ***Late papers will be docked 10 points for EACH WEEK they are late.*** Formats will be discussed in class prior to assignments.

- D. **Outline of Constitution and Amendments** - TWO (2) typewritten papers due as assigned in class. ***Late papers will be docked 10 points.***

NOTE: Papers may be e-mailed to me, however they must be in the same format as if being presented in class. A "hard copy" **must be submitted** at the next class session.

- E. **Grading Procedures** - Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 94 to 100	C+ = 77 to 79
A- = 90 to 93	C = 73 to 76
B+ = 87 to 89	C- = 70 to 72
B = 83 to 86	D+ = 65 to 69
B- = 80 to 82	D = 60 to 64
	F = Below 60

I ="Incomplete" (As outlined in the college catalog)

VIII. EVALUATION PROCEDURES: (Con't)

Withdrawal Policy = A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course MUST complete a withdrawal form in the Registrar's Office at the time of withdrawal. Students may withdraw from class anytime during the first ten (10) weeks without being in good standing or obtaining prior permission of the instructor. After that period, a student wishing to withdraw must obtain written authorization of the instructor to receive a "W" grade for the course. Students who do not withdraw, but stop attending class will be assigned an "F" on their permanent transcript. "F" grades lower the grade point average and may adversely affect the good standing status of the student receiving the grade. An "F" may also prevent a student from obtaining financial aid. Eligibility for a refund of tuition is based upon date of withdrawal when received by the Registrar. Verbal withdrawals cannot be accepted.

F. Final Grades - will be determined as follows:

3 Quiz Grades - - - - -	36% (12% Each)
4 Case Briefs - - - - -	36% (9% Each)
5 Study Questions - - - - -	25% (5% Each)
2 Const./Amendments Papers - - - -	<u>3% (1.5% Each)</u>
Total: 100% = Letter Grade	

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is expected at ALL class meetings. Absences will reflect in quiz grades, as quiz questions are developed from text and classroom presentations. Case Reports and Study Questions are due when assigned and **absences will not excuse late papers** which will be **docked 10 points for each week they are late!**

X. DISABILITIES STATEMENT:

If You have a learning difference or a disability which may require classroom or test-taking modifications, please see me as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, please notify Mr. Cris Scarborough, at 860-892-5751. Students with a physical, medical or psychiatric disability contact Kathleen Gray at 860-885-2328 or Matt Liscum at 860-383-5240

XI. SESSION OUTLINE:

A session outline is provided to each student as a supplement to this syllabus. The outline contains a breakdown of the material presented during each session. It also contains a list of handouts used during the session and homework assignments. The outline may be used by the student to organize and check classroom notes and as a study guide.

The outline will be used at the beginning of each class session as an overview of materials to be presented and at the end of class as a review of material presented.

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