

Political Science 4301 (Constitutional Law I)  
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Fall, 2003

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Office Hours: Mon., Wed., & Fri.: 10:00-12:00 A.  
Tues. & Thurs.: 11:00A-12:00 P.

Required text: American Constitutional Law, Third Edition, Stephens and Scheb

### SYLLABUS

1. Attendance is compulsory. After a student's second unexcused absence he/she will be dropped from the class. A caveat: you will be responsible for all assigned reading material and for the content of all class discussions. Students who do not attend the library information session on August 29 will be dropped from the class.
2. There will be one examination. It will account for 30% of your final grade.
3. There will be a quiz on the first day on which material from a new chapter in the text is assigned, except for the last chapter. Specifically, as assigned in the Reading Assignment, the quizzes would occur on Sep. 3, 26, Oct. 13, 29, and Nov. 19. These dates are subject to change as announced in class. The quizzes will, cumulatively, account for 20% of your final grade.
4. There is a required research paper. It will be due at the class meeting on Dec. 3 and will not be accepted after that time. The research paper will account for 30% of your final grade. The research paper requirement is described on an attachment hereto.
5. The assigned reading should be done prior to the first class session for which it is assigned and you should be prepared to discuss it at the assigned time and subsequently.
6. All cases assigned are required to be briefed. The briefs for the entire chapter will be collected after the class meeting at which the cases in the chapter are first discussed and will be returned at the next class session. Excused absence does not excuse you from the briefing requirement. Failure to submit more than two day's briefs will result in an "F" for the briefing assignment for the quarter. The briefing assignment will account for 20% of your final grade.
7. Students will demonstrate by writing assignment, examination and required briefs that they have a knowledge of the application of American constitutional provisions to the operation of American institutions and the federal relationship.
8. The professor reserves the right to add or detract from a student's final grade as a result of his evaluation of the student's class participation.

### READING ASSIGNMENT

- Aug. 18  
 20 Introduction, pp. 1-14  
 22 **Class will not meet**  
 25 Chap. 1, pp.16-45  
 27 pp. 69-78 (briefs for Chap. 1)
- Sept. 1 Holiday  
 3 pp. 47-64 (quiz)  
 5 pp. 74-75 and “Who May Authoritatively Interpret the Constitution?”  
 8 Cont.  
 10 pp. 76-78 and *Luther v. Borden*, *De Funis v. Odegard*  
 12 Cont.  
 15 pp. 78-80 and *Poe v. Ullman*  
 17 Cont.  
 19 Cont.  
 22 Cont.  
 24 Cont.  
 26 Chap. 5, pp. 264-296 (quiz)  
 29 Cont., pp. 296-330 and *M’Culloch v. Md.*, p.115, and *Gibbons v. Ogden*, p. 123
- Oct. 1 Cont. **Case and thesis statement for paper due.**  
 3 Cont.  
 6 Cont.  
 8 Cont.  
 10 Cont.  
 13 Cont., Chap. 2, pp. 81-111 (quiz)  
 15 Cont., pp. 112-162  
 17 Cont.  
 20 Cont.  
 22 Cont.  
 24 Cont.  
 27 Cont.  
 29 Chap. 3, pp. 163-192 (quiz)  
 31 **Class will not meet**
- Nov. 3 Cont. pp. 202-229  
 5 Cont.  
 7 Cont.  
 10 Cont.  
 12 Cont.  
 14 **Class will not meet**  
 17 Cont.  
 19 Chap. 4, pp. 220-237 (quiz)  
 21 pp. 238-263  
 24 **Class will not meet**  
 26 **Holiday**  
 28 **Holiday**
- Dec. 1 Cont.  
 3 Cont.  
 4 Cont.

You are to write a research paper (10-13 pages) on a Supreme Court case that deals with one of the cases excerpted in Chapters 1 through 6. The paper **must** be controlled by a thesis that incorporates a political explanation of the reason that the Court decided the case as it did. The simplest thesis statement begins: “The Court decided (the case) as it did because....”

Your paper must be typed, thoughtfully written, and free of spelling and grammatical errors. It must include the following: 1. **a cogent thesis**; 2. a clearly developed and logical argument in support of your thesis; and 3. proper documentation, using accepted style. A research paper must be thoroughly documented, which means that each fact that is not in the general knowledge must be followed with a citation of your source and authority for it. Failure to document is plagiarism as well as a failure to complete the assignment.

A controlling thesis will give your paper focus. Everything that you write should be in support of your thesis, directly or indirectly. **You should understand the requirement that you have a thesis before beginning your paper.**

Just as your thesis gives a focus to the paper, each paragraph should have a subject sentence that gives focus to the paragraph. Every other sentence in the paragraph should be related to the subject sentence. Your subject sentence is normally the first sentence in a paragraph and should provide some transition from the previous paragraph.

You are to give me a written statement of your case and a tentative thesis statement on **Oct. 3**. The paper is due on **Dec. 3**; I will not accept it after the class meeting on that date except in extraordinary circumstances.