

Lecture Course on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Texts (available on Amazon and at Columbia University Bookstore):

- Dyson, *What Truth Sounds Like*
- Rothstein, *The Color of Law*
- Desmond, *Evicted*
- Tirado, *Hand to Mouth*
- Quart, *Squeezed: Why Our Families Can't Afford America*
- Rauch, *Kindly Inquisitors*
- Kakutani, *The Death of Truth*
- Solinger, *Reproductive Politics*
- Hinton, *The Sun Does Shine*
- Turow, *Ultimate Punishment*
- Forman, *Locking Up Our Own*
- Woodward, *Fear*
- Bremmer, *Us vs. Them: The Failure of Globalism*
- Recommended: Franzese, *A Short and Happy Guide to Being a Law Student*

Course Description: This course explores seminal law and policy to inform contemporary civil rights and civil liberties jurisprudence. Specifically, the readings examine discrimination, housing inequality, economic inequality, freedom of speech and the press, the right to privacy, reproductive freedom, criminal procedure and adjudication, the rights of the criminally accused and the death penalty.

Requirements: Students are required to attend all classes and one discussion section every other week. Class participation counts for 10% of the final grade, the take-home midterm for 30% and the take-home final for 60%.

Discussion Sections: Discussion sections are conducted every other week and students must attend one of the three available slots: Tuesdays from 4:10-5:00pm in room 237 Milbank and Thursdays from 1:40-2:30pm and 4:10-5:00pm in room 119 Milstein Learning Center.

Learning Objectives: This course will provide students with a working knowledge of the legal method of inquiry, as it pertains to matters of constitutional interpretation and adjudication. Civil rights and civil liberties will be assessed in their legal context. Specifically, students will learn to:

1. Read and analyze judicial opinions.
2. Identify the various constitutional standards of judicial review.
3. Apply legal and analytical constructs.
4. Evaluate the merits and shortcomings of the major theoretical debates within the civil liberties discourse, both in oral and written presentations.

5. Analyze and assess contemporary scholarly and journalistic writings on civil rights and civil liberties by critically examining their claims and applicable counterpoints.

Grading: Grades will be calculated as follows:

Class participation: 10%

Take-Home Midterm: 30%

Take-Home Final Exam: 60%

Topics and Readings Schedule

Note: Class will not meet on Oct. 9th. The last class of the semester is Dec. 11th.

Week One

Overview of the judicial system and court organization; introduction to key concepts of judicial review and theories of constitutional interpretation.

Week Two

Race-Based Discrimination

Dyson, *What Truth Sounds Like*

Readings on Courseworks:

Week Three

Race-Based Discrimination in Housing

Rothstein, *The Color of Law*

Readings on Courseworks:

Coates, *The Case for Reparations*

Week Four

The Fair Housing Act Fifty Years Later: Tenants Left Behind

Desmond, *Evicted*

Readings on Courseworks:

Franzese, *The Implied Warranty of Habitability Lives*

Franzese, *A Place to Call Home: Tenant Blacklisting and the Denial of Opportunity*

Franzese, *Promises Still to Keep: The Fair Housing Act 50 Years Later*

Week Five

Economic Inequality

Quart, *Squeezed*

Tirado, *Hand to Mouth*

Week Six

Criminal Procedure and Adjudication

Forman, *Locking Up Our Own*

Week Seven

The Death Penalty

Hinton, *The Sun Does Shine*

Turow, *Ultimate Punishment*

TAKE HOME MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED**Week Eight**

First Amendment Values

Rauch, *Kindly Inquisitors*

TAKE HOME MIDTERM DUE**Week Nine**

First Amendment Values in Flux

Kakutani, *The Death of Truth*

Readings on Courseworks:

Chemerinsky, *Free Speech on Campus*

Week Ten

The Right to Privacy: Caselaw
and contemporary applications
in the age of technology

Readings on Courseworks:

Loving v. Virginia

Obergefell v. Hodges

Griswold v. Connecticut

Cruzan v. Missouri

Privacy is a 21st Century Myth, Huffington Post

Week Eleven

The Right to Privacy and Reproductive Freedom

Solinger, *Reproductive Politics*

Week Twelve

Civil Liberties in Perilous Times

Woodward, *Fear*

Week Thirteen

Civil Liberties in a Global Setting

Bremmer, *Us vs. Them: The Failure of Globalism*

TAKE-HOME FINAL DISTRIBUTED