

Political Science BC 3521x
Barnard College

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Lecture Course on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Texts (available on Amazon, the CU bookstore, on reserve in the Barnard library and when noted assigned excerpts are posted on Courseworks)

- Gopnik, *A Thousand Small Sanities*
- Franzese, *A Short and Happy Guide to Being a Law Student*
- Kendi, *How to Be an Antiracist*
- Gaude, *Democracy in Black*
- Rothstein, *The Color of Law*
- Desmond, *Evicted*
- Tirado, *Hand to Mouth*
- Quart, *Squeezed: Why Our Families Can't Afford America*
- Land, *Maid*
- Rauch, *Kindly Inquisitors*
- Kakutani, *The Death of Truth*
- Traister, *Good and Mad*
- West, *Shrill*
- Nichols, *The Death of Expertise*
- Hinton, *The Sun Does Shine*
- Forman, *Locking Up Our Own*

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 and Policies:

- Students are required to attend all classes
- No laptops or electronics permitted in class
- Discussion Sections are conducted every other week and students are encouraged to attend one of the two sessions (Tuesdays from 6:00-6:50pm and Wednesdays from 12:10-1:00pm)

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

Grading: Attendance and class participation: 10% Take-Home Midterm: 30% Take-Home Final: 60%

Topics and Readings Schedule

Week One

Overview of the judicial system and court organization; introduction to key concepts of judicial review and theories of constitutional interpretation, how to read a case

Franzese, *A Short and Happy Guide to Being a Law Student*

Gopnik, *A Thousand Small Sanities* (excerpt posted on Courseworks)

Week Two

Discrimination in Housing

Rothstein, *The Color of Law*

Week Three

Restorative Justice and Housing Reform

Desmond, *Evicted* (posted on Courseworks)

Franzese, *The Implied Warranty of Habitability Lives* (posted on Courseworks)

Franzese, *A Place to Call Home: Tenant Blacklisting and the Denial of Opportunity* (posted on Courseworks)

Franzese, *Promises Still to Keep: The Fair Housing Act 50 Years Later* (posted on Courseworks)

Week Four

Race-Based Discrimination

Gaude, *Democracy in Black*

Week Five

Race-Based Discrimination

Kendi, *How to Be an Antiracist* (excerpt posted on Courseworks)

Baldwin, *Letter from a Region in My Mind* (posted on Courseworks)

Coates, *The Case for Reparations* (posted on Courseworks)

Week Six

Economic Inequality

Tirado, *Hand to Mouth*

Quart, *Squeezed* (excerpt posted on Courseworks)

Week Seven

Economic Inequality

Land, *Maid*
TAKE-HOME
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Week Eight

Criminal Procedure and Adjudication
Watch 13th (documentary available on Netflix)
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM DUE

Week Nine

Criminal Procedure and Adjudication
Forman, *Locking Up Our Own* (excerpt on Courseworks)
Hinton, *The Sun Does Shine* (excerpt on Courseworks)

Week Ten

The Right to Privacy
Loving v. Virginia (on Courseworks)
Griswold v. Connecticut (on Courseworks)
Roe v. Wade (on Courseworks)
Watch [Frontline: The Abortion Divide](#)
Chatiner, [A Supreme Court Reporter Defines the Threat to Abortion Rights](#)

Week Eleven

Gender-Based Discrimination
Traister, *Good and Mad* (excerpt posted on Courseworks)
West, *Shrill* (excerpt posted on Courseworks)
Craig v. Boren (on Courseworks)
Reed v. Reed (on Courseworks)
Watch *RBG* (on Hulu and Amazon Prime)

Week Twelve

First Amendment Values
Rauch, *Kindly Inquisitors* (excerpt on Courseworks)
Kakutani, *The Death of Truth* (excerpt on Courseworks)

Week Thirteen

First Amendment Values
Nichols, *The Death of Expertise* (excerpt on Courseworks)
TAKE-HOME FINAL DISTRIBUTED