

Constitutional Law
University of Wisconsin, Green Bay
Fall 2009

Dr. Tim Dale
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Office: MAC A322
MW 12:00-2:00
TTH 2:00-3:00
Or by appointment

Course description

The course emphasizes the history of constitutional law in the United States through an analysis of leading Supreme Court cases that deal with government authority as well as citizen rights and civil liberties. Special attention is given to the political and historical context of major cases and the implications for public policy.

Course requirements

The course grade will be based on two exams and two written and oral case arguments. The exams will involve multiple choice and short answer questions related to the course readings and lectures. In each of the case assignments, students will prepare briefs or decisions on specific cases presented in class. Further details about these case assignments will be given in class.

Required text:

American Constitutional Law, Volumes 1 & 2
by Stephens and Scheb
ISBN: 0205619797

Grading:

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Case assignments (2 at 15%) – 30%

Exam 1 – 35%

Exam 2 – 35%

Scale:

A: 93-100

AB: 88-92

B: 83-87

BC: 78-82

C: 70-77

D: 60-69

F: 59 or below

Paper grading:

Excellent (A): 100

Outstanding (A): 95

Well above average (A-): 90

Very Good (B+): 88

Good (B): 85

Slightly above average (B-): 80

Adequate (C+): 78

Minimal effort with avoidable mistakes (C): 75

Many mistakes (C-): 70

Serious problems, not following assignment (D): 65

Failing (F): 59 or below

Your grade on everything in the course is to be based on your own work. Academic misconduct in any form, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated. (Plagiarism is the act of copying or paraphrasing another's writing without citing the source, or using passages or portions of text without using quotation marks.) In

the case of a violation, the student will receive a zero for the assignment, and in severe or repeat cases face the possibility of failing the course. Cases of academic misconduct will also be reported to the Dean of Students, and procedures will be followed according to Chapter 14 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code (http://www.uwgb.edu/deanofstudents/policies_procedures/students/pdfs/uws014.pdf).

Attendance policy

Attendance in class is not mandatory. Class lectures and activities will be crucial to the assignments and exams, however, so attendance is highly recommended. Lecture notes will not be available from the instructor if you miss class. If you choose to come to class you are expected to participate fully in the class activities. It is not acceptable to come to class and read magazines, do other coursework, send text messages, or work on a crossword puzzle. These are all distracting and should be done outside of class. Talking during lecture unless specifically called upon is also unacceptable.

Use of technology

The use of a laptop in class is allowed if you are taking notes with it. If you would rather be doing other things with your computer or internet connection please do them somewhere else. Cell phones are not to be used in class for any reason, including sending text messages. If an electronic device is used during a test you will receive an automatic zero on that test.

Exams and assignments

Dates of exams and due dates for assignments are not negotiable. They will only be changed in cases of documented emergencies or official university excused absence.

Course Schedule

*All dates and assignments are tentative and may be changed by the instructor.
Notice of changes will be announced in class.*

Lecture	Readings
1. Introduction	Intro.
2. Sources of Power and Restraint	1
3. Congress and National Power	2
4. Presidency and the Constitution	3
5. The Modern Administrative State	4
6. Federalism	5
7. Civil Rights and Liberties	1
8. Property Rights and Free Markets	2
9. Free Speech and the 1 st Amendment	3
10. Church and State	4
11. Criminal Justice	5
12. Privacy	6
13. Equal Protection	7
14. Voting Rights	8

Important Dates

Exam 1 –

Final Exam –