POLS 346: Law and the Political System

Instructor: Heather M. Smith
Office: NH #130
Office hours: Monday 2-3:30, Wednesday 2-3:30, and by appointment
Email: Hmsmith@ucsd.edu
Class Room: M #218
Class meetings: MW 3:30-4:45

Required Texts


3) Reader available in the bookshop.

Website: All of the cases that we read in the reader are available on: [www.findlaw.com](http://www.findlaw.com). The cases in the reader have been edited and are much shorter than the ones that are available from this website. The reader has not changed from that offered during the spring and fall of 2005. I encourage you to seek out a used reader to save money.

Grading

Grades for this class will be calculated as follows: midterm exam 25%, paper 20%, group project 15%, 2 quizzes based on the in-class group projects 10% (5% each), and final exam 30%. The midterm exam will be held in class on Wednesday, March 1st. The first group project quiz will be held on Wednesday, March 8th. The paper topic will be handed out on Wednesday, March 22nd. The paper is due on Wednesday, March 29th at the beginning of class. Papers will NOT be accepted via email. The second group project quiz will take place on Wednesday, May 8th. The final exam will take place on Friday, May 12th from 3:30-5:30.

Group Project

Each student will be required to participate in one group presentation. Groups will be 3 or 4 students. The purpose of the group projects is to do research on a topic being covered in class and introduce new information to the class that relates. More detail will be given in class. Group projects will take place at the beginning of class every Wednesday. Grading will be based on the quality of information presented, the level of analysis of that material and the conceptual links made to class material. Feel free to use transparencies or other supplements to make the presentation more interesting for the class. **Sign-ups for group presentations will begin on the 2nd day of class so be sure to sign up as this project counts for 15% of your final grade.** I will email you with the email addresses of your group members 2 weeks before your presentation. It is then up to you and your group to meet and plan your presentation.
Course Outline and Assignments

Week 1
Jan 18: Introduction and Overview

Week 2
Jan 23: The 1st Court; Schwartz chs. 1-2
Jan 25: The Taney Court; Schwartz ch. 3

Week 3
Jan 30: Schwartz ch. 4
Feb 1: Civil War and the Court; Schwartz ch. 5

Week 4
Feb 6: The Fuller Court; Schwartz ch. 7 & 8
Feb 8: Stone and Vinson Courts; Schwartz ch. 11, Korematsu v. United States 323 U.S. 214 (1944), available at:
   Video, “Of Civil Rights and Wrongs”

Week 5
Feb 13: The Warren Court; Schwartz ch. 12, Gideon v. Wainwright 372 U.S. 335 (1963), available at:
   Kozol, “Children of the City Invincible”
Feb 15: The Road to Brown; Schwartz ch. 13,

Week 6
Feb 20: Brown v. Board of Ed. 349 U.S. 294 (1955), available at:
   Plessy v. Ferguson 163 U.S. 537 (1896), available at:
Feb 22: Atlanta Motel Inc. v. United States 379 U.S. 241 (1964), available at:
   Video, "Road to Brown"

Week 7
Feb 27: Frontiero v. Richardson 411 U.S. 677 (1973), available at:
   Padavic and Reskin, “An Overview of Sex Inequality at Work” (article in the reader)
March 1: MIDTERM EXAM

Week 8

March 8: **GROUP PROJECT QUIZ I**- Schwartz ch. 15

**SPRING BREAK MARCH 13-18**

**Week 9**

March 20: *Roe v. Wade* 410 U.S. 113 (1973), available at:  
http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=us&vol=410&invol=113

*Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey* 505 U.S. 833 (1992), available at:  

Video, "The Abortion War; Thirty Years After *Roe v. Wade*"


*Lawrence v. Texas*, available at:  

**PAPER TOPIC HANDED OUT AT THE END OF CLASS.** If you miss class there will be extra copies of the paper topic posted on my office door.

**Week 10**

March 27: [Speech]

*Schenck v. United States* 249 U.S. 47 (1919), available at:  

*Brandenburg v. Ohio* 395 U.S. 444 (1969), available at,  

March 29: **PAPER DUE- BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

*Cohen v. California* 403 U.S. 15 (1971), available at:  

*United States v. O’Brien* 391 U.S. 367 (1968), available at,  

**Week 11**

April 3: *Lorillard Tobacco Co. v. Reilly* 000 U.S. 00-596 (2001), available at:  
http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=us&vol=000&invol=00-596

April 5: Video, “Free Speech for Sale”

**Week 12**

[Executive-judicial relations, modern]


**Week 13**

April 17: *Bush v. Gore*, (I’ll give you the selected reading for this case)

April 19: Video, “Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election”

**Week 14**

[Terrorism]


**Week 15**


**Week 16**

May 8: **GROUP PROJECT QUIZ II**


Dec 10: Final Exam Review;


**FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 12th: 3:30-5:30**