

Political Science 6

Civil Rights and Liberties in the United States

3 unit; 3 hours lecture

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for English 1A

Degree applicable Transfer CSU and UC

This course introduces students to the study of civil rights and liberties based on current legislation and pertinent court decisions. Emphasis is placed on freedom of speech, religion and press, rights of the defendant, and equal protection issues of minority groups facing discrimination.

Course Objectives:

1. Describe and analyze the political and judicial environment influencing attitudes towards policies on civil liberties and civil rights.
2. Identify and discuss the components of the federal judicial branch and the salient characteristics of each of the Supreme Court justices.
3. Explain and assess the responsibilities of the various court levels and how they function.
4. Identify and describe vocabulary used in the judicial process.
5. Compare and contrast opposing views on Supreme Court cases and other controversies relevant to civil rights and liberties.
6. Evaluate the doctrinal development and historical significance of areas in civil liberties and civil rights.
7. Discuss the various judicial tests for speech, press, and association, and evaluate where these rights interconnect.
8. Analyze and apply the judicial tests for freedom of religion.
9. Evaluate the development of criminal protection guarantees and discuss changes to these guarantees based on technological advancements.
10. Analyze the development of privacy rights and discuss changes to these rights.
11. Compare and contrast varying forms of discrimination and the differences in the legal treatment of each.
12. Discuss developing areas of rights and the Supreme Court's willingness to deal with these issues

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

1. Judicial Tests

In a written essay, students will demonstrate knowledge of the various judicial tests pertaining to speech, press, and assembly as interpreted through various court decisions.

2. Constitutional Jurisprudence

In a written essay, students will discuss and critically analyze the different approaches to Constitutional Jurisprudence.

3. Equal Protection Clause

In a written essay students will demonstrate knowledge of the various judicial tests pertaining to the Equal Protection Clause.

ADA Statement:

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center.

Student Code of Conduct

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/2019-policies/AP%205500%20Student%20Conduct%20.pdf>

Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205530%20STUDENT%20%20RIGHTS%20AND%20GRIEVANCES.pdf>