

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**Plainview**

Wayland Mission Statement**:** Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

Course Title, Number, and Section: POLS 5300 VC01 – American Constitutional Law: Civil Rights/Liberties

Term: **Spring 2018**

Instructor:Dr. Justin Lawrence

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address: 806-535-5907 and [lawrencej@wbu.edu](mailto:lawrencej@wbu.edu)

Office Hours, Building, and Location:Call or e-mail me anytime. Gates Hall 303

Catalog Description: Study of the American judicial system, the constitutional basis of civil liberties and civil rights, and the controversial nationalization of these liberties.

**There is no prerequisite for this course.**

Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Material(s) :

Constitutional Law and the Criminal Justice System, 7th Edition J. Scott Harr, Kären M. Hess, Christine H. Orthmann, and Jonathon Kingsbury **ISBN-13:** 9781305966468. Cengage

Optional Materials: None

Course Outcome Competencies:The student will demonstrate knowledge of the American judicial system, the basis of American jurisprudence in common law, the criteria of justiciability, the major schools of thought on judicial review, and the development of constitutional interpretation of civil liberties and civil rights

Attendance Requirements:

Virtual Campus

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation.

Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

Disability Statement:In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university.  The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765.  Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:

**A. Reading Assignments:** Reading assignments are to be completed on time (i.e., by the

Wednesday of the week they are scheduled for discussion). You should be prepared to participate in online discussions about the assigned reading.

**B. Discussion Boards:** There will be a discussion topic each week of class, with the exception of Week 11. All first posts must be done by Wednesday @ 11:59 p.m. CST of each week, and the remaining 2 posts must be in by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST each week.

* Your original response to each set of discussion questions must be at least 400 words.
* Additionally, each of your 2 responses to your classmates must be at least 100 words each.
* No Discussion will take place when the week is over.

**Note:** Posting all your discussions answers on Bb is a major requirement of this course. In this context, Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any way (Wayland Baptist University Policy on Dishonesty). You may view your peers work and postings to learn from one another, but you can’t copy their work. Students who have circumstances which prevent them from participating or completing an assignment on time must communicated with me in order to find reasonable accommodations to complete the required course work.

There are specific assignments that must be completed each week.   Your individual responses must be insightful, thorough, and interesting.   These responses should demonstrate an understanding of the assigned readings and should be substantiated by two or more examples from the textbook and/or appropriate websites.

Each response to your classmates should be substantive.  Participation is measured on the student’s interaction and contribution with the course and other students as demonstrated through active involvement on the virtual classroom discussion board. A student’s contribution must add value to the course.  A discussion board posting is determined to be of substance by containing information that supplements, contradicts, questions, or furthers discussion on a subject area contained in the course.  Additionally, it is expected that student participation reflect critical thinking and good grammar.

**C. Course Exams and Quizzes:** You will not have a midterm. You will have 10 Weekly Assignment and a Final Essay Exam. The Assignments will be based on the Weekly Readings and the Final Exam will be Comprehensive and it covers Chapters 1 -13. All Quizzes and Exams are Open Book and Open Note.

**D. Research Project:**

**\*\*\*\*Please address each of the following points in order.\*\*\*\*\***

***Due at the End of Week 9***

Students will research and write a paper on a topic that that covered in our text that is also of personal interest or importance to you. The text of the paper must be a minimum of twelve pages (Maximum of fourteen). Papers must have an abstract and a bibliography. This must be submitted in APA format. Your topic must be pre-approved by the instructor. Plagiarism shall result in disciplinary action. Late papers will receive lower grades unless the instructor determines that there is a satisfactory reason for the late receipt.

*Please note that this assignment is through Safe Assignment and I will not accept any submissions with a 50% or more Matching Percentage.*

*If your Matching Percentage is 50% or more you will receive an automatic “F” for the assignment. This information will then be reported to the Dr. Bobby Hall and he will handle any further sanctions from the University.*

*Furthermore, there will be a great reduction in your grade for Matching Percentages between 21% and 49%.*

**The only allowable Matching Percentage is 0 % t o20%.**

This must be submitted in APA format. Your topic must be pre-approved by the instructor. Plagiarism shall result in disciplinary action. Late papers will receive lower grades unless the instructor determines that there is a satisfactory reason for the late receipt. **Papers must be submitted in Times New Roman 12 Point Font.**

The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control. A grade of “incomplete” is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10 to 15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion.  If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

Student Grade Appeals:

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

**Tentative Schedule:**

**Course Outline/Calendar**:

**Week 1 Meet and Greet Discussion Board: Due Tuesday @11:59 CST**

**Chapter 1**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 CST**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 1 Assignment- Due Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 2 Chapter 2**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 CST**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 2 Assignment - Due Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 3 Chapters 3 and 4**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 CST**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 3 Assignment - Due Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 4 Chapter 5**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 CST**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 4 Assignment - Due Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 5 Chapter 6**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 CST**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 5 Assignment - Due Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 6 Chapter 7**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 CST**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 6 Assignment - Due Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 7 Chapters 8 and 9**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 CST**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 7 Assignment - Due Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 8 Chapters 10**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 CST**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 8 Assignment - Due Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 9 Chapter 11**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 CST**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 9 Assignment - Due Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Research Paper Due End of Week 9**

**Week 10 Chapters 12 and 13**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 CST**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 10 Assignment - Due Sunday @ 11:59 CST**

**Week 11 *Final Exam***

**Additional Information:** [**http://catalog.wbu.edu**](http://catalog.wbu.edu)