

**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 2019**

Instructor:Dr. Brenda Johnson

WBU Email Address: brenda.johnson@wayland.wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location:I will be available by email and will return your email within 48 hours.

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 Politics: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Volume 2, 10th Edition, David M. Obrien **ISBN-13**: 978-0-393-60352-1. Norton.

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., before attempting to complete the corresponding assignments). You should be prepared to participate in online discussions about the assigned reading and be able to answer questions and apply what you learned from the readings on the quizzes. Students will not be required to read the entire chapter. Rather, I will provide a final list of the selected readings on the first day of class. Also, while not required, I strongly suggest that you brief each case that is assigned. We will discuss how to brief a case during the first week of class.

**B. Discussion Boards: (40%)** There will be a discussion topic each week of class, with the exception of Week 11. Each student will create and post their original response by Wednesday @ 11:59 p.m. CST of each week. Each student will also respond to two other students’ original posts by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST each week. While students are only required to respond to two other students’ original posts, students are encouraged to respond to as many posts as they wish and to keep the conversations going until the due date. However, if a student responds to more than two other student’s posts, the student should indicate/inform me which responsive posts they would like to submit for grading. If a student fails to indicate to which posts they would like to submit for grading, I will grade the first two responsive posts that I see.

* 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.
* Posting all your discussions answers on Bb is a major requirement of this course. Be sure to complete these assignments in a timely manner (i.e., prior to the due date) as I will not grade post submitted outside of the above-mentioned deadlines. Additionally, please note that I will assess participation based on the discussion boards. (See below for further information regarding how participation will be assessed)
* You may view your peers work and postings to learn from one another, but you can’t copy their work. (Refer to the University policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty).
* Students who have circumstances which prevent them from participating or completing an assignment on time must communicate with me prior to the due date of the assignment in order to find reasonable accommodations to complete the required course work.
* I will assess student participation based on student’s original posts and responses to peers’ posts.
* Individual posts 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 sources.
* Each response to your peers should be substantive. 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.
* It is expected that all posts reflect critical thinking, thorough analysis, and good grammar.

**C. Course Exams and Quizzes:** Students will complete a weekly quiz each week, with the exception of week 11. During week 11 Students will complete the final examination which will be comprehensive of all concepts that we over the semester. Students will not have a midterm. The weekly quizzes will account for 40% of the student’s final grade and the final exam will account for 15% of the student’s final grade. All quizzes and exams are open book and open note; however, time constraints will be imposed.

**D. Email Assignment:** Students will be required to email Dr. Johnson from their Wayland email accounts by 11:59 PM CST on Sunday, March 3rd to ensure that they are able to adequately communicate with Dr. Johnson. This assignment is designed to identify and correct any technical difficulties early in the semester. This assignment will account for 5% of the student’s final grade. Please refer to the email assignment instructions in Bb for more information.

Course Calculations:

* Discussion Boards = 400 (There are 10 Discussion Boards, so each one will be worth 40 points)
* Weekly Quizzes = 400 (There are 10 Weekly Quizzes, so each one will be worth 40 points)
* Final Exam = 150 points possible
* Email Assignment = 50 points possible

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE = 1,000

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 (Feb 25 – March 3): Chapter 1**

**Skim through the Constitution and read the Syllabus: Monday**

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

**Email and Blackboard Assignment: Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM CST**

**Quiz: Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM CST**

**Week 2 (March 4 – March 10): Chapter 2**

**Discussion Board Response (covering chapters 1 and 2): Due Wednesday @ 11:59 CST**

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

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

**Week 3 (March 18-March 24): 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 (March 25 – March 31): 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 (April 1 – April 7): 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 (April 8 – April 14): 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 (April 15 – April 21): 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 (April 22 – April 28): Chapter 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 (April 29 – May 5): 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**

**Week 10: (May 6 – May 12): Chapter 12**

**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)