

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.

Contact Information

Course: POLS 3307 VC01 – American Constitutional Law

Campus: WBUonline

Term/Session: Spring 2 - 2024

Instructor: Dr. Richard E. Boyer

Office Phone Number: 520 220 2377

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Office Hours, Building, and Location: Office Hrs. 8 a.m.to 4 p.m. Mon to Sat phone, email & WBUonline

Class Meeting Time and Location: WBUonline

Course Information

Catalog Description: Origins and evolving interpretation of the American Constitution based on the decision of the Supreme Court.

Prerequisite(s): POLS 2301

Textbook Information

Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Materials: : Constitutional Law and Politics: Struggles for Power and Governmental Accountability, Volume 1 O'Brien W.W. Norton & Co. (12th ed. 2023) ISBN: 9780393893519 and Constitutional Law and Politics: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Volume 2 O'Brien W.W. Norton & Co. (12th ed. 2023) 9780393893526

*The textbook for this course is part of the **Wayland's Automatic eBook** program. You will have access to an eBook and interactive learning material on the first day of class through your Blackboard course site. The cost of this Automatic eBook will be billed directly to your student account when you register for the course. You will be notified via email with access instructions and additional information. If you do not wish to participate in the Automatic eBook program, you will have the first 12 days of class to opt-out of the program (additional details will be outlined in your email instructions). For more information on the Automatic eBook program, visit the Wayland Bookstore [Automatic eBook FAQ](#) page.*

Optional Materials: Perrin, R., *POCKET GUIDE TO APA STYLE* (7th ed. 2021). Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-0-357-63296-3

Course Outcome Competencies: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the American judicial system, different interpretative approaches to judicial decision making, and the historical development of constitutional interpretation by means of case study

Attendance Requirements

WBUonline

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 2 or more weeks of an 8-week session, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given session is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

University Policies

[Link to Statement on Academic Integrity](#)

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 Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Accessibility issues with content in WBUonline courses or in Blackboard should be addressed to the WBU accessibility coordinator, Dr. Rick Hammer, hammerr@wbu.edu or call (806) 292-9150.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

POLS 3307 Assignments	Points	Percentage		Grade	Points
Required First Assignment (2 pts.) + Bio (8 pts.)	10	2 ½ %		A	360
UNITS I – IV Quizzes Open Book (25 pts. each)	100	25%		B	320
UNIT I and II Quizzes-Closed Book (50 pts. each)	100	25 %		C	280
UNIT III Research and Critical Analysis (RCA)	90	22 ½ %		D	240
Final Exam	100	25 %		F	Below 240
Totals	400	100%		I	Incomplete
Bonus points – Not shown above are bonus points which are awarded from time to time for doing something extra, like alerting the professor that there is an error in the syllabus like when there is an error on the date that an assignment is due, etc. Sometimes bonus points are awarded to the entire class when, for example, the professor makes a mistake that affects the whole class. All bonus points are "extra" - as while they are figured in your total points earned, in the end they are not figured in the denominator = the total points possible on graded assignments .					

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, within the last week of an 8-week session, 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 16-week term or 8-week session, 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 are 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

Unit I (Weeks 1 & 2)

Week 1 (Mar. 25 - 31)

- Required First Assignment (2 pts.) - must be completed by end of the day Sunday, **Jan. 21** to be counted as attending and active in the course.
- Bio (8 pts) - Submit/Post on Bio by Sunday **Mar. 31**.
- Reading: Chapters in the course text
- Unit I Quiz-Open Book (25 pts.) - in conjunction with reading Chapters in the course text complete the Unit I open-book Quiz two times by **Mar. 31**.
- Unit I Research and Critical Analysis (RCA) Prep – in preparation Research and Critical Analysis (90 pts.) assignment which will stay open through Unit III read the RCA Instructions in this Unit I Research and Critical Analysis Prep, followed by researching, selecting a Chapter from Constitutional Law and Politics: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Volume 2 (not V. 1), and drafting your Research and Critical Analysis paper on the chapter you selected which is due as Unit III's second week assignment beginning on Apr. 29 and ending due on May 5.

Good Friday Mar. 29: no class and no assignments due on but course will be open

Week 2 (Apr. 1 - 7)

Easter Monday Apr. 1: no class and no assignments due on but course will be open

- Unit I Quiz-Closed Book (50 pts.) - complete in one-sitting the traditional closed-book, timed (25 minutes), not proctored Unit I Quiz on Chapters during Unit I's second week (Week 2) beginning on Apr. 1 and ending on Sunday, **Apr. 7**.

Unit II (Weeks 3 and 4)

Week 3 (Apr. 8 – 14)

- Reading – Chapters
- Unit II Quiz Open-Book (25 pts.) - in conjunction with reading Chapters in course text complete the Unit II open-book Quiz two times by **Apr. 14**.

Week 4 (Apr. 15 - 21)

- **Unit II Quiz-Closed Book (50 pts.)** - complete in one-sitting the traditional closed-book, timed (25 minutes), not proctored Unit II Quiz on Chapters during Unit II's second week (Week 2) beginning on Apr. 15 and ending on Sunday, **Apr. 21**.

Unit III (Weeks 5 and 6)

Week 5 (Apr. 22 - 28)

- Reading – Chapters
- **Unit III Quiz Open-Book (25 pts.)** - in conjunction with reading Chapters in course text complete the Unit II open-book Quiz two times by **Apr. 28**

Week 6 (Apr. 29 – May 5)

- **Research Critical Analysis (RCA = 90 pts.)** – submit your RCA during and by the end of Unit III's second week (Week 6) beginning on Apr. 29 and ending and due on Sunday, **May 5**.

Unit IV (Weeks 7 and 8)

Week 7 (May 6 - 11)

- Reading – Chapters

- Unit IV Quiz Open-Book (25 pts.) - in conjunction with reading Chapters in course text complete the Unit II open-book Quiz two times by Saturday (not Sunday) **May 11**

Week 8 (May 12 - 18)

- Final Exam (100 pts.) – complete in one-sitting the traditional closed-book, timed, not proctored exam completed during and by the end of Unit IV's second week (Week 8) beginning Sunday (not Monday) May 12 ending on **Saturday** (not Sunday) **May 18**.

Additional Information

No Late Assignments- To receive credit for any assignment it must be submitted in the course on Blackboard. Assignments will not be accepted after their due dates except by permission from the professor which will only be granted in exigent circumstances as determined by the professor