

PSCI 3200 A  
US Constitutional Law and Civil Liberties  
Tuesday 2.35-5.25  
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor Prof. Melissa Haussman  
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Office hrs. M 2:45-5, T 12-2 & by appt.

This course is an Introduction to the evolution and functioning of US Constitutional Law and Civil Liberties and Civil Rights protections. We examine some of the main premises surrounding the articulation and adoption of the seven articles in the late 1780s and of the first ten Amendments contained in the Bill of Rights by 1791. We also look at the evolution of “core” constitutional doctrines, such as negative liberties, national supremacy, substantive due process, selective incorporation and others. We will discuss which concepts have “survived” to the present day and which have been changed by political mobilization on different ends of the spectrum. Importantly, we will finish with an examination of how federal and state government responses to the 9/11 events have challenged civil liberties protections in the US.

Texts:

The following three books are required and available at the University bookstore:

Lee Epstein, ed., Constitutional Law for a Changing America: Institutional Powers and Constraints (CQ Press, 2007)

Lee Epstein, ed., Constitutional Law for a Changing America: Rights, Liberties and Justice (CQ Press, 2007)

Kyle Rotunda, Honor Bound: Inside the Guantanamo Trials (Carolina Academic Press, 2008)

Grading:

Given that this is a third year class, attendance and informed participation based in and out of class sources is mandatory. A considerable amount of your grade will be based on oral presentations within class. Class requirements are as follows:

Acting as co-leader of a presentation	25%
Preparing questions talking points: to be handed out the week before	15%
Take-home final (15 pp.)	30%
“Issue brief” paper on an aspect of Con law, civil libs or rights (10-12 pp.)	20%
General participation	10%

The take-home exam is due on Saturday, December 20, 2008 and will be based on questions distributed on the last day of class (Tuesday, November 25). I will have office hours on December 20 in order to collect exams between 12:00 pm and 2:00 p.m. Late papers will not be accepted.

Class schedule:

Week 1	Overview
Sept. 8	Epstein I, Chs. 1-3
Week 2	
Sept. 15	Epstein, Chs. 4-6
Week 3	
Sept. 22	Epstein, 7-9
Week 4	
Sept. 29	Epstein, 10, 11
Week 5	
Oct. 6	Epstein, Book II, Part I
Week 6	Epstein, Ch. 5
Oct. 13	<b>Paper due</b>
Week 7	
Oct. 20	Epstein, Ch. 4 and other FBI (Faith-Based Inits.) readings
Week 8	
Oct. 27	Epstein, Chs. 6, 7
Week 9	
Nov. 3	Epstein, Chs. 8, 9
Week 10	
Nov. 10	Epstein, Part 4

Week 11  
Nov. 17 Rotunda, first half (Chs. 1-20); Epstein, Ch. 12

Week 12  
Nov. 24 Rotunda, second half (Chs. 21-31)  
Wrap up

### Academic Accommodations

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your letter of accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 7, 2008 for December examinations**, and **March 6, 2009 for April examinations**.

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance ([www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned

in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Course Requirements:** Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.