

## **POLI 4021: CIVIL LIBERTIES**

**Location:** Zoom MWF 1:30-2:20

**Instructor:** Kate Bratton

**Office hours:** 11:00-1:00 daily

### **I) Course Description**

This course offers an introduction to American constitutional law

### **II) Course Objectives**

**IV) Grade Distribution: (5 elements, each 20%: 2 midterms, 1 final, attendance, quizzes)**

<u>Graded Item</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Covers Material</u>	<u>Opens/deadlines</u>	<u>Closes</u>
Midterm 1	<u>20%</u>	Covers Introduction through First Amendment / Free Exercise. Does not include Establishment. Topics I through VII.	<u>Opens</u> 2/15 at 4 pm	<u>Closes</u> 2/19 at 11:59
Midterm 2	<u>20%</u>	Covers Establishment Clause through Rights of the Accused: Attorneys, Trials and Punishments. Topics VIII through XII.	<u>Opens</u> 3/22 at 4 pm	<u>Closes</u> 3/26 at 11:59
<u>Final</u>	<u>20%</u>	Mostly Covers Equal Protection, Voting & Representation Topics XIII through XV.	<u>Opens</u> 4/26 at 8 am	<u>Closes</u> 5/1 at 11:59
<u>Quizzes</u>	<u>20%</u>	By topic. Two tries. 5-20 multiple choice questions. See details below.	Date due is given in link. 2-day grace period. See details below.	
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>20%</u>	Extra credit available. See details below.		

## **MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON ASSESSMENTS**

### **Attendance**

When you log onto zoom, the first thing you should do is say something (such as "hello") in the chat pod. Searching the chat pod for names after class is the easiest way for me to take attendance. I encourage you to change your id to your first & last name, if it shows up as your LSU email. If for some reason you want to use an id that is neither your first & last name nor your LSU email, that's fine; just email me and let me know what you are using, so that I can find it when recording attendance.

You should also say "bye" when leaving class—and full credit is given for doing both.

You have up to three unexcused and three excused absences (excused means you've notified me in advance.)

In our "zoom" class, as we start covering the subject matter (i.e., next week), I'll sometimes ask questions that are designed to review material we've covered.

There is extra credit for participation.

## Quizzes

You can find the quiz for each topic with the rest of that topic's material. Students usually have 4-7 days to complete. Quizzes consist of 5-25 multiple choice questions. You have two tries; the highest grade is the one that counts. After the first try, you should be able to see feedback on some of the questions, which should help you figure out the correct answer. Usually I'll set it so that you know which questions you got wrong.

The due date is put in the header (in the link text). You have a two



## **VI) Academic Integrity**

Taken from the LSU Code of [Student Conduct](#), Section 10.0:

- A. High standards of academic integrity are crucial for the University to fulfill its educational mission. To uphold these standards, procedures have been established to address academic misconduct.

As a guiding principle, the University expects Students to model the principles outlined in the University Commitment to Community, especially as it pertains to accepting responsibility for their actions and holding themselves and others to the highest standards of performance in an academic environment. For example, LSU students are responsible

## **VIII) Netiquette**

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, discussions, and chats.

Click [here](#) for a set of useful guidelines, from the U-Texas at El Paso.

Click [here](#) for a set of suggestions for online learning, from University of Illinois, Chicago.

Here are a few of my own suggestions:

Participate: this is a shared learning environment. Ask questions, answer questions.

Report glitches: There will be glitches—tell the instructor if you are having problems with sound, video, microphone, or logging in.

Help others who are not as experienced as you at online learning.

Talk to each other! Even in the chat pod, talk to each other about the class.

Be Patient. And, when you disagree with someone, disagree politely, and suggest alternative perspectives.

Be brief, clear, to the point.

Use proper wr

**IX) Grading Scale**

97 and above: A+

93-96.9: A

89.5-92.9: A-

86.5-89.49: B+



**Tentative Schedule**

**(Occasional Supplemental Readings/Podcast Assignments May be Added)**



**3/26 (Fri): Final date for dropping courses, 4:30 pm deadline**

**3/26 (Fri): Final date to reschedule a final exam when 3 exams are scheduled within 24 hours**

**3/26 (Fri): Final date for resigning from University, 4:30 pm deadline**

**3/28 (Sun): Course scheduling for fall semester and Wintersession begins, 5 pm**

**MIDTERM 2 OPENS 3/22 (MON, 4 PM, CLOSSES 3/26 (FRI, 11:59 PM)**

**XIII) Civil Rights: Race Discrimination, Equal Protection (3/31 4/7)**

For Wednesday, 3/31 read *RL&J*, pgs. 555 590

For Monday, 4/5 read *RL&J*, pgs. 591 600

**April 2 (Fri): Good Friday Holiday**

**XIV) Civil Rights: Contemporary Approaches to Equal Protection (4/9 4/14)**

For Friday, 4/9, read *RL&J*, pgs. 601 630