Minnesota State University Moorhead

POL 333: Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights and Liberties

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 07 - Human Diversity

This course focuses on the First Amendment freedoms -- speech, press, expression, assembly and religion and questions of race, gender and ethnicity, due process, equal protection, voting rights and the right to privacy under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. MnTC Goal 7.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 02/20/1999 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Selective incorporation and the Bill of Rights
2. Freedom of religion---free exercise and establishment
3. Freedom of speech---political speech, commercial speech, demonstrations, symbolic speech, the clear and present danger standard
4. Freedom of the press, prior restraint, the public figure doctrine
5. Obscenity and libel
6. The right to privacy---abortion, sexuality, the right to die
7. Civil rights law under the 14th amendment---historical context of the equal protection clause
8. Race discrimination
9. Gender discrimination
10. Voting rights and representation, gerrymandering, reapportionment

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will be able to use relevant legal materials such as legislative history, constitutional text, statutory interpretation and past precedent to analyze historical and contemporary problems of constitutional law.
2. Students will be able to make sophisticated arguments that reflect both political and legal realities concerning the development of civil rights and liberties in the U.S.
3. Students will appreciate the historical development of civil rights and liberties law in the U.S. in the areas of First Amendment fundamental freedoms and the development of the due process and equal protection clauses of the Fifth and Fourteenth amendments and related legal precedent.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted