



# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SAN ANTONIO

**Professor/Instructor:** Marshall B. Lloyd  
**Telephone:** 210-323-3170  
**Office:** TBA  
**Office Hours:** Monday 7 – 8PM CST  
**Email:** [Marshall.Lloyd@tamusa.edu](mailto:Marshall.Lloyd@tamusa.edu)  
**Class Times:** Monday – Saturday 12 Noon  
**Classroom:** Online Asynchronous

## **POLS 4332 – Spring 2026 Constitutional Law II**

### **Course Description**

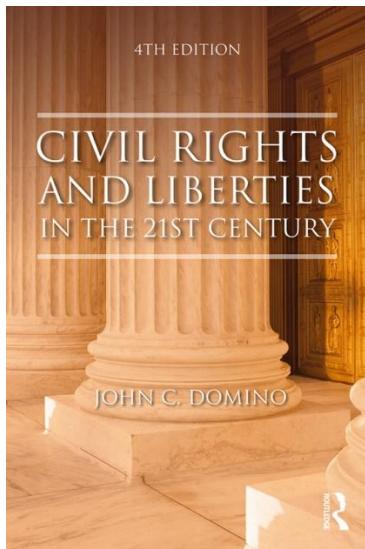
A survey of using leading cases, both historic and contemporary, of the Supreme Court of the United States. Matters of rights and liberties, their recognition and definition, policies of rights developed by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Prerequisites: GOVT 2305 and GOVT 2306.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. Describe the aims and philosophies underlying the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights and how they came to exist.
2. Describe and apply the fundamentals of constitutional interpretation and the adjudication of constitutional issues.
3. Identify, analyze, synthesize, and apply major legal doctrines derived from the adjudication of controversies regarding the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution.
4. Describe the challenges facing the SCOTUS in the maintenance of constitutional rights and liberties.
5. Identify and create legal arguments using relevant precedent or theory.
6. Demonstrate the ability to comprehend several sides of an issue and form a rational opinion.

## Required Text



<https://www.amazon.com/Civil-Rights-Liberties-21st-Century/dp/1138653756>

John C. Domino, Civil Rights and Liberties in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Routledge 4th Edition (Taylor & Francis Group) (2018) ISBN-13: 9781138653757; DIGITAL ISBN-13: 9781317226574.

## MEANS OF ASSESSMENT

### Exams:

There will be a total of three exams in this class throughout the semester. The final exam is exam 3 and it will be comprehensive; it will cover material that is assigned during the semester. All exams are time limited and completed on Blackboard. I allow students approximately a full week to complete their exams. The final exam is comprehensive, see the dates it is available.

### Discussion Boards

There are several (13 total) discussion boards. The points for each are outlined below. The total points for all discussion board assignments is 10 points. **You need to participate at least 3 days during the week on each discussion board. The main response needs to be posted by Wednesday 11:59 PM (exception for week one). All discussion boards close at 12 Noon every Saturday.**

Assignments	Number	Points Each Exam	Total Points
Exams	3	50	150
Discussion Boards	13	10 - 15	150
<b>Total Points</b>			<b>300</b>

## **GRADING SCALE PERCENTAGE**

“A”: average is 90 or higher

“B”: average is 80 to 89

“C” average is 70 to 79

“D” average is 60 to 69

“F” Average is 59 or lower

<b>Percentage</b>		<b>Minimum Points</b>
<b>90-100</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>80-89</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>70-79</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>210</b>
<b>60-69</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>Below 60</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>179 and below</b>

## **University Policies & Resources**

**Attendance:** If you miss more than 6 classes each additional absence will deduct one point from your course grade.

### **Definition Of a Credit Hour:**

“A credit hour is an amount of work that reasonably approximates: not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out of class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks for one semester, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; at least an equivalent amount of work as outlined in the item above for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practicum, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours. (This information is in accord with federal regulations regarding the definition and assignment of credit hours under section 600.0 and 600.24(f) of the Higher Education Opportunity Act.)

“A credit hour represents a unit of measure of instruction consisting of 60 minutes, of which 50 minutes must be direct instruction over a 15-week period in a semester system. Academic administrative units are responsible for ensuring that credit hours are awarded only for work that meets this requirement. (This is in accord with The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board definition.) Transfer credits will be evaluated for equivalency to this requirement. Students should expect to invest a minimum of two hours of additional work for each hour of classroom or faculty instruction per week.” 2019-2020 Catalog page 103.

**Therefore, this course requires 3 hours of class time plus a minimum of 6 hours of homework per week.**

## University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at 210-784-4357.

## Key Dates For Fall 2024 Semester

The complete academic calendar is available online:

## Key Dates

Tuition & fee payment deadline	Jan. 13
Last Day for students to withdraw to receive 100% tuition	Jan. 16
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No classes	Jan. 19
Classes Begin	Jan. 20
Last day to register for Spring 16-week Session	Jan. 27
Census Date. Also, Last date to apply for Spring 2019 graduation	Feb. 4
Students dropped for Non-Payment will be assessed a Reinstatement Fee	Feb. 5
Midterm grading period	Feb. 23-Mar. 6
Spring Break	Mar. 9-14
Last day to drop with an automatic "W"	Apr. 17
Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University	May 1
Last day of Scheduled Classes	May 4
Study day - No classes	May 5

Academic Calendar <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/current-year/spring-2026.html>

## COURSE CALENDAR

NOTE: See Calendar in Blackboard for dates applicable to each section (AUC/Main Campus)

	Weeks	Topic	Chapter	Assignment
		Welcome	Readings	
Week 1	Jan. 19-24	Introduction to Class		Discussion Board
Week 2	Jan. 26-31	Civil Rights and Liberties	Chapter 1	Discussion Board
Week 3	Feb. 2-7	Powers and Operation of the Supreme Court	Chapter 1	Discussion Board
Week 4	Feb. 9-14	Freedom of Expression	Chapter 2	Discussion Board
Week 5	Feb. 16-21	Freedom of Expression	Chapter 2	Discussion Board
Week 6	Feb. 23-28	Religious Freedom	Chapter 3	Discussion Board
Week 7	Mar. 2-7	<b>Exam I</b>		
Week 8	Mar. 9-14	<b>Spring Break</b>		
Week 8	Mar. 16-21	Due Process and Criminal Justice	Chapter 4	Discussion Board
Week 9	Mar. 23-28	Due Process and Criminal Justice	Chapter 4	Discussion Board

Week 10	Mar. 30-Apr.4	Right of Privacy	Chapter 5	Discussion Board
Week 11	Apr. 6-11	Right of Privacy	Chapter 5, 6	Discussion Board
Week 12	Apr. 13-18	<b>Exam II</b>		
Week 13	Apr. 20-25	Equal Protection	Chapter 6	Discussion Board
Week 14	Apr. 27-May 2	Equal Protection	Chapter 6	Discussion Board
Week 15	Apr. 27-May 2	Equal Protection	Chapter 6, 7	Discussion Board
Week 16	May 6-10	<b>Final Exam</b>		

## IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

### **University Email Policy and Course Communications:**

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at [helpdesk@tamusa.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamusa.edu) or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

### **Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities:**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the website or email us at [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodations with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

### **Academic Learning Center:**

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu), calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance. While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows

	<b>Appointments available</b>	<b>Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed</b>
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MONDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm	MONDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm	MONDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm	TUESDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm	TUESDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm	WEDNESDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm	WEDNESDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm	THURSDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm	THURSDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY 8 am – 5 pm 11 am – 4 pm	FRIDAY 8 am – 5 pm 11 am – 4 pm	FRIDAY 8 am – 5 pm 11 am – 4 pm

#### Counseling/Mental Health Resources:

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows).

The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.



#### Emergency Preparedness:

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here. Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

#### Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC):

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as

eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an “Online Appointment.” Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an “eTutoring” appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website . The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu).

### **Meeting Basic Needs:**

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE report for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; click here for hours and contact information.

### **Military Affairs:**

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

### **Religious Observances:**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

### **The Six-Drop Rule:**

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student's GPA.

### **Statement of Harassment and Discrimination:**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution

of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or [titleix@tamus.edu](mailto:titleix@tamus.edu).

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamus.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

### **Pregnant/Parenting Students:**

Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamus.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services

and other resources. Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at [youngjaguars@tamus.edu](mailto:youngjaguars@tamus.edu) or call (210) 784-2636.

### **Students' Rights and Responsibilities:**

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

#### **Students' Rights**

- A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
- Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
- A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
- Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

#### **Students' Responsibilities**

- A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
- A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
- A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
- A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
- A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct or visit the resources available in the OSRR website