

Great Cases: American Legal History (CASE) CTY Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course will examine United States history through a legal perspective. We will study the law to view the major dilemmas and conflicts of American social and political history—slavery, and freedom, women’s place and role in society, civil rights and the role of the state in American life. Our focus will be on the social, cultural and political-economic trends producing conflicts in need of resolution through the law. For instance, students will look at *Marbury v. Madison* as an example of judicial review and as part of an ongoing process by which Americans determined the role of government and the state in their lives. Additionally, this class will provide an introduction to history.

Required Texts

Major Problems in American Constitutional History: Documents and Essays. 2nd ed. Kermit L. Hall et. al. ed. (Wadsworth, Boston, 2010)

Instructional Method

Discussion, debate, written assignments, role-playing, lectures, group work, and note-taking.

Requirements

- 1) Extensive, lively, informed and respectful participation in all class discussions and activities.
- 2) Completion of all assignments and readings.
- 3) Daily writing exercises and assignments
- 4) Active, respectful and intelligent cooperation with classmates during group assignments.

Please Note: Schedule may change at instructor’s discretion

Day 1: Introduction, Course Overview, Colonial America

Morning

- 1) Introductions and backgrounds
- 2) Pre-“test”
- 3) What is History?-Discussion
- 4) What is the Law?
- 5) Discussion Overview of Course (requirements, honor code, class rules, writing, etc.)
- 6) How to read primary documents? How to read secondary documents?
- 7) Constitutional exercise

Afternoon

- 1) Origins of Colonial America and its laws
- 2) Slavery and the law in Colonial America, Discussion

Evening

- 1) **Begin Individual Project**
- 2) **Daily Reflection**

Day 2: Creating the American Republic

Morning

- 1) Revolutionary Era, Articles of Confederation, and Constitution Lecture
- 2) Video
- 3) Group Activity

Afternoon

- 1) Group Reading
- 2) Mock trial

Evening

- 1) Textbook: chapter 3 documents number 2-through 4, p81-91
- 2) **Individual Project**
- 3) **Daily Reflection**

Day 3: Rights in the New Republic

Morning

- 1) Conflicts over the Constitution-Federalists and Anti-Federalists
- 2) Debate

Afternoon

- 1) Discussion of the Bill of Rights and writing assignment
- 2) Discussion of Quasi-War, Alien and Sedition Acts, and Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions

Evening

- 1) Textbook: chapter 4, documents number 1, 3, and 4, p113-116, 118-126
- 2) **Individual Project**
- 3) **Daily Reflection**

Day 4: The establishment of Judicial Review

Morning

- 1) Discussion of *Marbury v. Madison*
- 2) Mock trial

Afternoon

- 1) Discussion of *McCulloch v. Maryland* and writing assignment

Evening

- 1) Textbook: chapter 5, documents 2 through 4, p. 162-171.
- 2) **Individual Project**
- 3) **Daily Reflection**

Day 5: Andrew Jackson, Nullification, and Indian Removal

Morning

- 1) Indian Removal lecture, writing, and film clip

Afternoon

- 1) Nullification Crisis lecture and discussion

Evening (Sunday)

- 1) Textbook: chapter 6, documents 1, 2, 6, 7
- 2) **Individual Project**

Day 6: Abraham Lincoln, Slavery, and the Civil War

Morning

- 1) Slavery, emancipation and the Civil War
- 2) Dred Scott Mock Trial

Afternoon

- 1) Secondary Readings “Lincoln’s Mixed Record on Individual Rights” and Abraham Lincoln and the Transformation of American Liberty” and writing assignment

Evening

- 1) Reading textbook, chapter 7, documents 2, 5, and 6, p 238-242, 248-255
- 2) **Individual Project**
- 3) **Daily Reflection**

Day 7: Reconstruction and the Fourteenth Amendment

Morning

- 1) Lecture on the end of Reconstruction and the Slaughterhouse Cases and the Birth of Jim Crow and the *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- 2) Group work

Afternoon

- 1) Feminism and the 14th Amendment- Reading, *Bradwell v. Illinois* and *Minor v. Happersett*, Lecture, discussion and writing

Evening

- 1) Reading, textbook, chapter8, documents 3-7, p281-297.
- 2) **Individual Project**
- 3) **Daily Reflection**

Day 8: Protective Legislation and the Liberty to Contract

Morning

- 1) Gilded Age: Life, Labor and Industrialization Lecture and Discussion
- 2) Reading and Discussion, *Lochner v. New York*.

Afternoon

- 1) Visit to Roger Williams University law school
- 2) Group Debate -*Muller v. Oregon*

Evening

- 1) Textbook: chapter 9, all documents
- 2) **Individual Project**
- 3) **Daily Reflection**

Day 9: Total War and the Emergence of Modern Civil Liberties

Morning

- 1) World War I and Civil Liberties in war time-Discussion and Opinion writing

Afternoon

- 1) Scopes Trial, discussion, and *Inherit the Wind*

Evening

- 1) Textbook: chapter 10, documents 1 through 5, p348-365
- 2) **Individual Project**
- 3) **Daily Reflection**

Day 10: Franklin Roosevelt, the Depression, and the New Deal

Morning

- 1) The Great Depression, the New Deal- Lecture and Discussion

Afternoon

- 1) Final Assignment Introduction, Brainstorming, and Research –library research

Evening (Sunday)

- 1) Textbook: chapter 11 documents 1 through 6, p385-397
- 2) **Individual Project**

Day 11: Final Project Preparation

Morning

- 1) Researched final project in computer lab and prepared poster for project

Afternoon

- 1) Final Project Work

Evening

- 1) **Individual Project**
- 2) **Daily Reflection**

Day 12: Race and Civil Rights in the Cold War Era

Morning

- 1) Civil Rights Lecture, Discussion, and Activity

Afternoon

- 1) Mock trial

Evening

- 1) **Individual Project**
- 2) **Daily Reflection**

Day 13: Feminism and countermovement

Morning

- 1) *Roe v. Wade*, feminism, and countermovement lecture and writing assignment
- 2) Nixon video

Afternoon

- 1) Mock trial

Evening

- 1) **Individual Project**
- 2) **Daily Reflection**

Day 14: Presidential Power during the Cold War

Morning

- 1) Evaluation and Post test
- 2) Read essays

Afternoon

- 1) Review
- 2) Mock trial

Evening

- 1) Complete Individual Projects

Day 15: Last Day of Class

- 1) Closing