# SUPREME COURT WORKSHOP

# Professor Collier

Law 6936, Section 16DA

-3 credits-

Spring Term - 2018

# COURSE SYLLABUS

**CLASS DAY, TIME AND ROOM:**

Fridays – 3:00 pm to 4:50 pm

Classroom – 354 (Holland Hall)

**SEMINAR DESCRIPTION:**

In this seminar the current docket of the U.S. Supreme Court is our topic. Each

student selects a current U.S. Supreme Court case to concentrate on. The cases selected

are discussed by the whole class, and teams of two students prepare for oral arguments

on the selected cases at the end of the term. Requirements also include a seminar paper

having something to do with the case selected by the student; this paper will satisfy the

senior writing requirement.

**GRADE INFORMATION:**

Grades are based primarily on the seminar paper, though the oral arguments may be taken into account in borderline cases.

Each student’s final grade will, subject to the College of Law’s applicable grading curve, be based on a composite of all "scored"/graded homework assignments, as well as thoughtful and meaningful participation and performance in class. Further information regarding grades and grading policies can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

The Levin College of Law’s mean and mandatory distributions are posted on the College’s website and this class adheres to that posted grading policy. The following chart describes the specific letter grade/grade point equivalent in place:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Point Equivalent |
| A (Excellent) | 4.0 |
| A- | 3.67 |
| B+ | 3.33 |
| B | 3.0 |
| B- | 2.67 |
| C+ | 2.33 |
| C (Satisfactory) | 2.0 |
| C- | 1.67 |
| D+ | 1.33 |
| D (Poor) | 1.0 |
| D- | 0.67 |
| E (Failure) | 0.0  |

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students who successfully complete the course should have a general understanding of the main issues facing the contemporary Supreme Court of the United States.

**ATTENDANCE**

Students are required to attend every class (barring emergency or illness excused in advance) and to be fully prepared for and participate in all class discussions, exchanges and exercises. Absences will be excused consistent with University of Florida policies listed in the catalog (see https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx) and require appropriate documentation. Please be and stay engaged, prepared and committed. Advance preparation includes reading and thoughtfully considering all assigned material and thinking about and preparing responses (including drafting) to assigned questions and exercises. In class, you are expected (i) to volunteer, willingly respond and to participate when called upon and (ii) to conduct yourself professionally, and to respect and be courteous to your fellow classmates (and faculty).

**CLASS PREPARATION/WORKLOAD**

·         Students should expect to spend, on average, approximately two hours preparing for every hour of class. Reading assignments are posted on the “Modules” link on the Canvas site (located on the left side of the Canvas site).

·         It is anticipated that you will spend approximately 2 hours out of class reading and/or preparing for in class assignments for every 1 hour in class.

·         ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote 120 minutes to out-of-class preparation for every “classroom hour” of in-class instruction. (Course) has 3 “classroom hours” of in-class instruction each week, requiring at least 6 hours of preparation outside of class. Accordingly, you will have about 60 pages of reading each week. Because the course includes statutory and regulatory excerpts that require careful reading, as well as discussion problems that require thoughtful advance written preparation, you should spend at least one hour on every 10-15 pages of reading.

**University Honesty Policy**. UF students are bound by *The Honor Pledge* which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment*.” The Honor Code (https:/[/www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/proc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-)e[ss/student-conduct-](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-) honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, each student is obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate University personnel.

**Students Requiring Accommodations**. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352.392.8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/%29) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Course Evaluations**. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/). These evaluations are typically open during the last two to three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>. In addition, a detailed, customized Course Evaluation Form will be distributed prior to, and collected at, the final class of the term.

**Class Demeanor**. Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and laptops or tablets (other than for class-related work) and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in all discussions, and conversations that do not relate or contribute to the discussion should be avoided or held to a minimum.