***S U P R E M E C O U R T W O R K S H O P***

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW**

**SYLLABUS – COURSE #14272**

**SPRING 2022– LAW 6936 – 2 Credits**

Professor Charles Collier

Holland Hall Office 373

Office Hours: Thursday, right after class or by appointment (right before class is not a good time). You may contact me via *Canvas*.

**MEETING TIME AND LOCATION**

Thursdays, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm; Room HH 360

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introduction to the fundamental issues and ideas before the U.S. Supreme Court.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Understanding of key issues and cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and ability to evaluate future Supreme Court cases.

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code located here.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to attend and participate in class and attendance will be taken at every class. I am assuming that each student that enrolls in this course is committing to attend every class to the best of their abilities, and class attendance is required by both the ABA and the Law School.

• Nevertheless, to allow for exigencies in life, **students are permitted six unexcused absences during the semester** without impacting their final grade. This allowance is designed to accommodate for illness, job interviews, family emergencies, and life. Please budget accordingly so that you are not left at the end of the semester with a needed absence and your budget depleted. The law school’s policy on attendance can be found [here](https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/current-students/uf-law-student-handbook-and-academic-policies#:~:text=co%2Dcurricular%20activities.-,Attendance,regular%20and%20punctual%20class%20attendance.&text=UF%20Law%20policy%20permits%20dismissal,of%2012%20credits%20per%20semester.).

A seating chart will be available on the first day of class for students to choose a seat. Please sit where you would like to remain for the rest of the semester on that day.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Students will be called on regularly. Much of the material in this course is subject to multiple interpretations; your insights are a highly relevant component of the course. The quality of class participation may be taken into account in the determination of grades.

**PROFESSIONAL COURTESY**

Cellphones should be turned off prior to class or not brought into the classroom at all. If you need to make or take a call during the class period, you should not attend class that day. If you think your computer might make a noise during class, please do not bring it into the classroom that day. These rules are for the benefit of you and your fellow classmates.

**COVID-19 PRACTICES**

Effective immediately, in light of new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we expect everyone to wear a mask at all times when inside any UF facility, even if you are vaccinated. This includes our students, faculty, staff, vendors and visitors. Recent studies and guidance from the CDC state that both unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals can transmit the current COVID-19 variant to unvaccinated persons.

**PREFERRED NAME AND PRONOUNS**

Many of you may have a preferred name that is not the name given to me on the official roll. It is important to the learning environment that you feel welcome and safe in this class. I want you to be comfortable participating in class discussions and communicating with me on any issues related to the class. I would like to refer to you by your preferred pronoun and last name. As such, if your preferred name is not the name listed on the official UF roll, please let me know as soon as possible by e-mail or otherwise before the first day of class.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**DISCOURSE, INCLUSION, AND THE CLASSROOM**

As a law student and future lawyer, it is important that you be able to engage in rigorous discourse and critical evaluation while also demonstrating civility and respect for others. This is even more important in the case of controversial issues and other topics that may elicit strong emotions. As a group, we are likely diverse across racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic, religious, and political lines.

**EVALUATION**

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. The law school grading policy is available here.

**STATEMENT RELATED TO ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must first register with the Disability Resource Center (https://disability.ufl.edu/). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs (Assistant Dean Brian Mitchell). Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester, as accommodations are not retroactive. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

**STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and may complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/.

Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.

**RECORDINGS OF CLASS**

All classes will be recorded via Mediasite in case students must miss class for health reasons. The Office of Student Affairs will determine when students may have access to these recordings, and the recordings will be password protected.

Students are allowed to record video or audio of “class lectures.” However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

**COURSE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS (TENTATIVE)**

The information below generally represent what I will attempt to cover during a class period, but they are only estimates. We may move faster or slower depending on how the classes progress. You can anticipate what the next class period’s reading assignment will be from the material given if you wish to start early or read ahead. ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote 120 minutes to out-of-class preparation for every “classroom hour” of in-class instruction. This class has approximately 2 “classroom hours” of in-class instruction each week, requiring **at least four hours of preparation outside** of class. Please budget accordingly.

Seminar Description

Additional materials will be posted to the “Files” section of the course’s *Canvas* page.

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 their 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 Advanced Writing Requirement.

First, I ask students to come to the second and possibly third class with first, second, and maybe even third choices as to which case they would like to be responsible for, which means taking a lead role in its discussion and, at the end of the semester, participating in an oral argument of the case. I try to get “teams” of two students per case, one for each side, in line with students’ preferences to the extent possible.

So the first few weeks are devoted to the discussion of the cases, as outlined above. After that the teams meet with me separately in team conferences each week to discuss their oral arguments and their papers (about 20 pages, due at the end of exams, and having something to do with their case). At some point I hand out the *Guide for Counsel in Cases To Be Argued Before the Supreme Court of the United States* (current edition, from the Supreme Court). Then for the last two weeks of class we reconvene as a group for oral arguments, with the class as the Court. This seems to lend an air of realism to the class.

Class Presentations (Summary)

A. In advance

Select something helpful and informative concerning your case for the class to read in advance (about 20 pages). *Examples* (any of which could be edited or otherwise shortened to 20 pages):

Lower-court opinions in your case (possibly including dissenting opinions)

Cert petition, brief-in-opposition to cert, briefs on the merits, reply briefs, etc.

Scholarly commentary and articles (for example, from the SCOTUS blog)

Op-Ed. pieces on your case or on issues involved in your case

Journalistic reports about your case from newspapers or magazines

B. Presentation (no longer than 30 minutes)

The following sorts of things should normally be covered (these could be divided up between team members; Power Point and other forms of electronic presentation may be used; handouts could also be distributed):

Procedural history of the case: facts, trial, appeals

The precise question(s) on which the Supreme Court has granted review; generally speaking, your case must normally present a “federal question.”

Issue(s) before the Court, especially in light of existing precedent

Any new or newly relevant legal theories pertaining to your case

Questions that could be posed to the class

Questions that the class might pose to you

1. You may also change your “Display Name” in Canvas. Canvas uses the “Display Name” as set in myUFL. The Display Name is what you want people to see in the UF Directory, such as “Ally” instead of “Allison.” To update your display name, go to one.ufl.edu, click on the dropdown at the top right, and select “Directory Profile.” Click “Edit” on the right of the name panel, uncheck “Use my legal name” under “Display Name,” update how you wish your name to be displayed, and click “Submit” at the bottom. This change may take up to 24 hours to appear in Canvas. This does not change your legal name for official UF records. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)