The text for this class is Randy E. Barnett, Constitutional Law: Cases in Context. You DO NOT need to buy the supplement, just the main text. If you can find someone on Amazon.com or otherwise who has used this book for a Constitutional Law I-type class, you can purchase a “marked-up” used copy of the book that will likely have almost all clean pages for this class.

The goal of this Court is to understand the evolution of Fourteenth Amendment due process and equal protection jurisprudence (and related matters, such as privileges or immunities) from the 1860s to the present, and the current status of Supreme Court doctrine with regard to these provisions.

Students will be tested via an approximately three-hour, fully open book and open notes exam, composed of both multiple choice questions and at least one essay.

Students are required to be prepared for class. Students who do not participate regularly without being called on will be expected to be ready for “cold calling.” I will provide students with study questions for each reading assignment on TWEN. To be minimally prepared for each class, a student must at least be able to answer these questions immediately when called on. In most cases, this means that you should write down answers to these questions before class. Students who are called on and are unable to answer the questions provided before class may be penalized by one grade step (e.g., B to B-) on their final exam.

I do not have formal office hours, but am available to meet with you any time I am in my office, or I am happy to make an appointment to meet with your any time when I am not teaching or attending a committee meeting.

Jan. 9    Barnett, 1-3, 13-16, 26-44, 75-77
Jan. 11   Barnett, 192-228
Jan. 18   Barnett, 263-84, 292-95
Jan. 23   Barnett, 295-339
& Jan. 25
Jan. 30   Background: Bernstein, Ch. 1 (edited), Rehabilitating Lochner (available on TWEN); Barnett, 355-56, 379-90
Feb. 1    Barnett, 390-412
Feb. 6    Buchanan v. Warley, 245 U.S. 60 (1917); Barnett, 424-430 Buck v. Bell, 274 U.S. 200 (1927) (Buchanan and Buck available on Westlaw, Lexis, Internet)
Feb. 8    Barnett, 431-51
Feb. 13   Barnett, 451-61, 576-83
Feb. 20   Barnett, 484-505
Feb. 22  Barnett, 533-40, 558-61
Feb. 27  Reynolds v. Sims, available at
http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/ReynoldsvSims.html
March 5  Barnett, 584-604
(majority opinion only)
http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/sanantoniovrodriquez.html; Barnett, 968-72
March 21 Barnett, 927-947
March 26 Barnett, 947-968
March 28 Barnett, 972-89
April 2  Barnett, 989-1007
April 4  Barnett, 1009-1031
April 9  Barnett, 1031-1052
April 11 & Barnett, 1052-1084
16
April 18  TBA
April 23  TBALAST DAY OF CLASS!

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
GMU is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else’s work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

GMU EMAIL ACCOUNTS
Students must use their Mason email accounts—either the existing “MEMO” system or a new “MASONLIVE” account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See http://masonlive.gmu.edu for more information.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. http://ods.gmu.edu