

Course POL 401 A
Course Title Moot Court
Professor Whitney Manzo
Term Fall 2019
Meetings MWF 12-12:50 PM



Professor's Contact Information

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Office Hours	MW 1-2 PM, TR 11-12PM or by appointment

General Course Information

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions	None
Course Description	<p>This course will prepare students to participate in moot court competitions, which simulate the experience of arguing a constitutional law case for the Supreme Court. Students will gain hands-on experience in legal research, critical thinking, and effective argument.</p> <p>*This Course meets the Oral Communications requirements for General Education.</p>
Learning Outcomes	<p>This course will teach students about legal argument in constitutional cases. We will discuss how to read and analyze legal opinions, how to trace the development of civil liberties law, and how to apply this knowledge to a fictional case, which we will then argue in front of a mock Supreme Court. The course learning outcomes are for you to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop your capacity for detailed analysis of complex materials and the construction of logical arguments in written form. (Social Science learning outcome #3) 2. Learn the principles of legal reasoning by reading & analyzing Supreme Court cases. 3. Improve your writing skills by writing and revising case briefs. (Social Science learning outcome #2) 4. Improve your oral communication skills by regularly presenting arguments in a professional manner. (Oral Communication learning outcome #1) 5. Compete in a moot court competition in order to demonstrate mastery of these skills.
Required Texts & Materials	All required reading will be placed on Brightspace. There is no required textbook. You will need access to the internet, a word processing program, and Meredith gmail (you should check this every morning).

Assignment Weight and Descriptions

<p>Grade Breakdown</p>	<p>100 points Attendance 165 points Class Participation 80 points Quizzes (2) 180 points Case Briefs (9) 375 points In-Class Arguments <u>100 points</u> Reflection Paper 1000 Total</p>
<p>Attendance</p>	<p>Attendance is expected at all class meetings, and I will be taking attendance each class period. However, I also understand that life happens and I really do not want you coming to class unable to focus or sick. You have one free absence, no questions asked. After that, each additional absence will deduct 10 points from your attendance grade. You can have the 10 points restored if you provide evidence you took notes from a classmate's notes and/or took written notes over the assigned reading from the day you missed. (School-sponsored activities are exempt from this policy.)</p>
<p>Class Participation</p>	<p>This grade includes but is not limited to contribution to class discussion and active participation in group work/group assignments. A major part of this grade will be attending the tournament, to be hosted at either Meredith or Campbell, toward the end of the course. Competition at tournament is REQUIRED to receive an A in this course. This is for 2 reasons: 1) the main objective of the course is competition in a moot court tournament; 2) competition is for teams, so if you drop out, you are causing a fellow student to also have to drop out. This grade will also include self and teammate evaluations, done twice in the semester.</p>
<p>Quizzes</p>	<p>There will be 2 quizzes: one on the case facts and one on the AMCA rules. These are important for ensuring that you are prepared to compete at tournament.</p>
<p>Case Briefs</p>	<p>For each of the precedents vital to our case, you will write a case brief. The cases I ask you to brief can be found online at the following sources: Justia, Oyez, SCOTUSBlog, or the Supreme Court's website. The case gives you links for each case to Justia, but choose the site that presents the material in a way that makes the most sense to you. You may NOT copy a brief from site and turn it in; these need to be your original work. Briefs will be graded on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 20 (highest). You will find an example case brief on Brightspace and we will practice how to write one in class.</p>
<p>In-Class Arguments</p>	<p>Several times before competition, you will practice giving your argument for both respondent and petitioner before the class. You will be graded on your mastery of the content, your answers given to any questions posed by the person acting as judge, and the professionalism of your presentation. I will use the official AMCA ballot to score your argument, and I will look for demonstrated improvement in these scores, rather than taking a simple average.</p>

Reflection Paper	At the end of the course, following the tournament, each student will write a minimum 3-full-page reflection of her experience in this class. Greater detail will be given on Brightspace, but you should plan to discuss what you have learned in the class, whether and how you believe your writing and oral communications skills have changed, and what the tournament was like for you.
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Academic Calendar

August 21	Introduction to the class Reading: 2019-20 case
August 23	Case quiz and how to write a case brief Reading: <i>Maryland v. Craig</i> (1990)
August 26	Formation of teams, outlining of rules and legal terms Due: <i>Maryland v. Craig</i> (1990) brief
August 28	Review of legal terms, case brief, and case Reading: AMCA Rules
August 30	Rules quiz Briefs due: Issue 1 people: <i>Katz v. US</i> (1967) and <i>Smith v. Maryland</i> (1979) Issue 2 people: <i>US v. Gigante</i> (2 nd Cir. 1999) and <i>Crawford v. Washington</i> (2004)
September 2	No class, Labor Day
September 4	Preparation of arguments Briefs due: Issue 1 people: <i>Kyllo v. US</i> (2001) and <i>US v. Jones</i> (2012) Issue 2 people: <i>Davis v. Washington</i> (2006) and <i>Ohio v. Clark</i> (2015)
September 6	Preparation of arguments Briefs due: Issue 1 people: <i>Kentucky v. King</i> (2011) and <i>Missouri v. McNeely</i> (2013) Issue 2 people: <i>US v. Yates</i> (11 th Cir. 2006) and <i>State v. Henderson</i> (Kan. 2007)
September 9	Preparation of arguments Briefs due: Issue 1 people: <i>Riley v. California</i> (2014) and <i>Carpenter v. US</i> (2018) Issue 2 people: <i>State v. Contreras</i> (Fla. 2008) and <i>Seely v. State</i> (Ark. 2008)
September 11-18	First practice of argument with Manzo
September 20	No class, professor out
September 23	RBG
September 25-27	Refining of arguments with classmates
September 30-October 9	In-class arguments
October 11	No class, Fall Break
October 14-16	In-class arguments
October 18-21	No class, professor out
October 23-25	In-class arguments

October 28-30	No class, professor out
November 1-20	In-class arguments
November 22	Tournament
November 25	No class, recovery
November 27-29	No class, Thanksgiving Break
December 2-4	Tournament recap and course review
December 7	Reflection paper due by 4 pm

Course Policies

Letter Grade Requirements	<p>A: 900-1000 points B: 800-899 points C: 700-799 points D: 600-699 points F: 599 or fewer points</p> <p>I moved to a point system in order to offer clarity at all times in the course as to what you need to do to achieve the grade you want. This also means there will be NO rounding; the points you get = the letter grade listed here, period.</p>
Extra Credit	Any extra credit will be offered at my discretion.
Late Work	Late briefs and papers will be accepted with a letter grade dropped for every day the paper is late. In-class practice arguments and quizzes cannot be made up.
Inclement Weather	You can expect for us to hold class unless the school closes due to unsafe conditions. You can check your Meredith email and/or the Meredith website or Facebook page for school closure messages. However, I do not want you to risk your life to get to class- final judgment on this matter rests in your hands.
Food, Drink, Laptops, Cell Phones	Food and drink will be allowed so long as they do not become distracting. Laptops will be allowed in class while we are writing arguments. When we practice arguments with classmates and during official in-class arguments, laptops are not to be used. Similarly, cell phone usage is banned during class time except for extreme emergencies.
Classroom Citizenship	We will have lots of discussion in this course, and politics is by nature highly contentious. However, it is essential that every student be polite and courteous to other students, even if they are expressing views that offend or anger you. I will encourage scholarly debate of justifiable opinions, but not disparaging remarks or personal attacks. If I feel you have crossed the line, you will be asked to leave class and your participation points will be marked down.
Course Drop Dates	<p>If you decide you cannot complete this course for whatever reason, you may withdraw. You must initiate this process with the Registrar's Office, I cannot do it for you. If you fail to meet the last drop date, you will receive a grade for this course, usually an "F".</p> <p>Last day to drop without a "W": Tuesday, August 27, 2019 Last day to drop with a "W": Monday, October 28, 2019</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Meredith Honor Code</p>	<p>We, the Meredith Community, are committed to developing and affirming in each student a sense of personal honor and responsibility. Uncompromising honesty and forthrightness are essential elements of this commitment. The Honor System is a method by which individual honors are protected and maintained. Any dishonorable action will be regarded as a violation of this commitment, and corrective action will be taken.</p> <p>If I am in violation of the Honor Code, to prevent jeopardizing the Honor System or weakening our system of self-government, I have an obligation to report myself to the proper authorities. If I am aware of a violation of the Honor System by another student, I shall call this matter to the attention of that student as a violation of responsibility to the community.</p> <p>In choosing Meredith College, I am accepting the Honor System as a way of life. As a Meredith student, I am responsible for insuring that the Honor System is at all times carried out.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Disability Statement</p>	<p>Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. In order to receive accommodations, students must go through the Counseling Center/Disability Services office. Disability Services is located in Carroll Hall and can be reached at (919)760-8427 or disabilityservices@meredith.edu. For additional information see the Disability Services website.</p>

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.