

You Decide!

Applying Court Cases to the Bill of Rights

Grades:	7th – 10th
Day of Week:	Monday
Time of Class:	3:00 – 4:30 pm ET
Length of Class:	10 weeks
Semester:	Spring
Tuition:	\$250.00
High School Credit:	.5 Social Studies or Elective

Class Dates:

Week 1: Week of March 28

Week 2: Week of April 4

Week 3: Week of April 11

No classes: Week of April 18 – 22 (Spring Break: Passover and Easter)

Week 4: Week of April 25

No classes: Week of May 2 – 6 (Eid Al Fitr)

Week 5: Week of May 9

Week 6: Week of May 16

Week 7: Week of May 23

Week 8: Week of May 30

Week 9: Week of June 6

Week 10: Week of June 13

Make Up Week: Week of June 20

Instructor's Name:	Jonathan Meola
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Description of Class:

The United States Constitution was drafted in Philadelphia in 1787 at the Constitutional Convention. However, many delegates felt that the document was not truly complete, since it did not include a list of rights that offered people protections from abuses of power by the government. These delegates felt that the lack of these rights would prevent ratification by the States, and after further deliberations, crafted ten Amendments to the Constitution that are known collectively as the Bill of Rights.

In this survey class, we will explore the Bill of Rights, using cases and examples covering the first eight Amendments, that will cover both the Founders' intent and further interpretation by the judiciary.

Class Approach:

We will discuss cases and examples in class, in order to illustrate each Amendment. The class is highly interactive. Students are expected to participate.

Goals:

For students to develop an understanding of the Bill of Rights as it relates to the US Constitution.

Textbook: You Decide! Applying the Bill of Rights to Real Cases, by George Bundy Smith & Alene F. Smith

(The Critical Thinking Co., 1992) www.criticalthinking.com ISBN: 978-1-60144-495-0

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

- Notebook / Notepad
- Pen / Pencil
- Computer
- Microphone

Weekly Homework:

Approximately 2 hours. Students are expected to complete any readings assigned prior to class. They should be ready to discuss. In addition, there will be a few papers and/or projects for the student to complete.

Homework Policy:

Homework is expected on time. It should be submitted via CANVAS (our LMS) prior to the next class.

Additional Policies:

Respect for other students. Respect for opinions. Respect. Respect. Respect.

Grading Scale:

100-90: A
89-80: B
79-70: C
69-60: D
59 – 0: No effort: F

Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Week	Topic	
Week 1	Introduction	What is the Bill of Rights?
Week 2	Amendment 1	Text, Cases, and Discussion
Week 3	Amendment 2	Text, Cases, and Discussion
Week 4	Amendment 3	Text, Cases, and Discussion
Week 5	Amendment 4	Text, Cases, and Discussion
Week 6	Amendment 5	Text, Cases, and Discussion
Week 7	Amendment 6	Text, Cases, and Discussion
Week 8	Amendment 7	Text, Cases, and Discussion
Week 9	Amendment 8	Text, Cases, and Discussion
Week 10	Summary	Class Presentations