

Syllabus, Constitutional Law, 4021

Dr. Kathleen Bratton

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Office Hours: 1:30-2:30 MWF and by appointment (bratton@lsu.edu)

I) Required / Supplemental Texts:

U.S. Constitution

Rights & Liberties (Lee Epstein & Thomas Walker—9th edition, although earlier editions will work)

Moodle assignments

II) Grade Distribution:

Attendance 10%

Attendance snafus—it is not uncommon for attendance to be on occasion recorded incorrectly. Even if this only happens 1% of the time, that's still a couple of dozen instances over the semester. And, sometimes you will have an excused absence that may not be recorded as such. When that happens, just let me know by using the "poll" link at the top of the Moodle page labeled "let me know about attendance snafus". I'll periodically go through and update / correct the attendance. You may also be asked to take your own attendance—I'm investigating the technology.

Moodle Quizzes 15% (at least 3 tries on each, usually contain feedback, highest grade).

Often, I'll require that students wait 30 or 60 minutes between each attempt, just to reduce the (entirely economically rational) incentive to go through the test quickly, get them all wrong, and then input the correct answers. Similarly, the feedback in Moodle should tell you whether you got an answer correct or incorrect—and many of the questions have information in the "feedback" box. However, the feedback will (generally) not tell you the correct answer; you'll have to figure that out yourself.

Every so often there are snafus with the moodle quizzes. If you can't figure out what the answer is—even after putting a good faith effort into it—or you think there's an error on the quiz, just email me. If you have that question, it's almost certain that other students do as well.

Moodle quizzes are due 11:59 on the due date (which should be listed in the quiz title that you see on Moodle). There is a 3 day grace period. After the grace period, for each 24 hours that a quiz is late, I'll deduct 3 points, until you reach 60%, at which point that will be your starting grade, regardless of when you take the quiz.

Moodle Exercises or short papers 20%

Midterm 1 (15%) (February 19) (online)

Midterm 2 (20%) (March 23) (online)

Final (20%) (5/1, 12:30-2:30)

(students may bring in a 1 page sheet of notes.)

III) Useful Links

[**LSU Academic Calendar**](#)

[Center for Academic Success](#)

[LSU Disability Services](#)

[College of Humanities & Social Sciences](#)

[PS 22](#) on “Student Absence From Class”

[PS 26](#) on Policy for Persons with Disabilities

[PS 44](#) on Student Grading

[PS 48](#) on Student Appeals

IV) Academic Integrity

Taken from the LSU Code of [Student Conduct](#), Section 8.0, page 18:

A. High standards of academic integrity are crucial for the University to fulfill its educational mission. To uphold these standards, procedures have been established to address academic misconduct.

As a guiding principle, the University expects Students to model the principles outlined in the University Commitment to Community, especially as it pertains to accepting responsibility for their actions and holding themselves and others to the highest standards of performance in an academic environment. For example, LSU students are responsible for submitting work for evaluation that reflects their individual performance and should not assume any assignment given by any professor is a “group” effort or work unless specifically noted on the assignment. In all other cases, students must assume the work is to be done independently. If the student has a question regarding the instructor’s expectations for individual assignments, projects, tests, or other items submitted for a grade, it is the student’s responsibility to seek clarification.

Any Student found to have committed or to have attempted to commit Academic Misconduct is subject to the disciplinary sanctions set forth in Section 9.0.

B. An instructor may not assign a disciplinary grade, such as an "F" or zero on an assignment, test, examination, or course as a sanction for admitted or suspected Academic Misconduct in lieu of formally charging the student with Academic Misconduct under the provisions of this Code. All grades assigned as a result of accountability action must be approved by the Dean of Students or designee.

V) Rehabilitation Act of 1973:

LSU abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education "solely by reason of a handicap." Disabilities covered by law include, but are not limited to, learning, psychological hearing, sight and mobility impairments. If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see me or the [Office of Disability Services](#), 112 Johnston Hall, so that such accommodations may be arranged

VI) Grading Scale

A+: 96.5 and above

A: 92.5 and above

A-: 89.5 to 92.4

B+: 86.5 to 89.4

B: 82.5 to 86.4

B-: 79.5 to 82.4

C+: 76.5 to 79.4

C: 72.5 to 76.4

C-: 69.5 to 72.4

D+: 66.5 to 69.4

D: 62.5 to 66.4

D-: 59.5 to 62.4

F: < 59.5

VI. Tentative Schedule

1. to August 28, 2017: The US Constitution, *Marbury v. Madison*, *Martin v. Hunter's Lessee*, *Eakin v. Raub* (To pg. 81, Epstein & Walker)
2. to September 22, 2017: Legislature (non-delegation, Supremacy Clause, Article I Section 8) (to pg. 182, Epstein & Walker)
4. to October 6, 2017: Executive (to pg. 267, Epstein & Walker)
5. to October 13, 2017: Separation of Powers (to pg. 340, Epstein & Walker)
6. to October 25, 2017: Federalism (to pg. 407, Epstein & Walker)
7. to November 13, 2017: Commerce (to pg. 520, Epstein & Walker)
8. to November 20, 2017: Taxing & Spending (to pg. 579, Epstein & Walker)
9. to November 22, 2017: Contracts (to pg. 623, Epstein & Walker)
10. To November 29: Due Process (to pg. 674, Epstein & Walker)
11. To December 1: Takings (to pg. 719) , Epstein & Walker)

[Final Exam schedule](#) lists final exam at May 1, 10AM to 12PM