

PSC 370-ON: American Constitutional Law

About Your Instructor

Brian K. Flatley is the instructor for this course. You may reach him at bkflatley@peace.edu

Brian Flatley is a Magistrate of District Court in Wake County, North Carolina, where he has served for the past fifteen years. He is currently assigned as a small claims judge. He has previously worked as an attorney in Elkin, North Carolina and Raleigh. Mr. Flatley received his bachelor's degree in English from Boston College, and his law degree from Wake Forest University.

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the US Constitution. This document is the most respected vessel of law in the United States. Yet no other body of law is so controversial or misunderstood. Students in this course will gain an understanding of how the US Constitution developed, and how this document relates to laws at the federal and state level.

What follows is a summary of the assignments and requirements. I reserve the right to alter, add or delete from these requirements; if unique learning opportunities present themselves for immediate use.

Requirements: Students will be responsible for the following:

- Reading weekly as assigned.
- Responding to weekly discussion questions.
- Two two-hour timed proctored exams one at the mid-way point and one the last week of the course.
- Students should expect to spend ten to fifteen hours per week on this course.

Course Information

Textbook:

American Constitutional Law, Eleventh Edition
Louis Fisher and Katy J. Harriger
eISBN-13: 9781611639216

Reading Assignments:

Week One: Chapters 1 and 2
Week Two: Chapters 4 and 5
Week Three: Chapters 8 and 9
Week Four: Chapter 10
Week Five: Chapter 11 and 12
Week Six: Chapters 13 and 17

Grading:

Your marks for this course will be calculated as follows:

- Discussion Questions: 30%
- Term Paper 20%
- Mid-Term Exam 25%
- Final Exam 25%

About the Term Paper:

You will submit a ten-page paper due on the Twenty-Eighth of April, 2018. This paper should be in "college format," with a bibliography at the end of the paper after ten pages of double-spaced text. You will submit this paper as a .doc formatted attachment to an e-mail addressed to bkflatley@peace.edu no later than 9 pm on April 28, 2017.

Your topic should relate to issues that interest you in the US Constitution.

If you have any questions about your topic, or how to proceed in this assignment, please let me know.

Due Dates

Your Mid-Term Exam opens on April 2nd, 2018 at 8 am, and is due on April 8th, 2018 at midnight, and will cover materials through the end of Chapter 9. Your Term Paper is due on April 28th at 9:00 pm. Your Final Exam opens on April 23rd, 2018 at 8 am, and is due on April 28th at midnight, and will cover materials

from the remainder of the readings. When taking your Mid-Term and Final Exams, you would be well advised to take the exam well before the due date. If you take your exam close to the deadline and encounter technical difficulties, you might not be able to take the exam, with a result of no credit. Please keep in mind that the proctoring service "cuts off" at midnight, so give yourself time to complete each exam by then.

- Please use the following link to access your proctoring services to take both of your exams: http://www.peace.edu/wp-content/uploads/Proctoring-Options-for-Online-Students_2016.pdf
- Both the mid-term and final exams are open-book and open-notes in format.
- You will submit your term paper to me via e-mail at bkflatley@peace.edu
- Please submit your term paper in Word format no later than 9:00pm on April 28th, 2018.
- Generally, late work is unacceptable. This is especially true of discussion board work, as submitting posts to a closed board is not very useful. I recognize that emergencies do occur. If you feel that you will be unable to complete an assignment, please get in touch with me via e-mail before the assignment is due.
- You will notice that there are two major elements of the class due on April 28th, 2018. Accordingly, one would do well not to leave "until the last minute" any of the tasks due on that date, as it will be impossible to complete both tasks simultaneously.
- Please consult the Exam Proctoring Policies in your Student Handbook. **It is solely your responsibility to budget time to allow yourself to schedule and take your exams.** Failure to do so does not entitle a student to an extension or a make-up exam. Proctoring slots fill up quickly, so you would do well to schedule your appointment as promptly as possible.

- Due dates for the discussion boards are:
- Week One – March 18th at 9 pm.
- Week Two – March 25th at 9 pm.
- Week Three – April 1st at 9 pm.
- Week Four – April 8th at 9 pm.
- Week Five – April 15th at 9 pm.
- Week Six – April 22nd at 9 pm.

Questions and all written work will be graded according to the following:

- Guidelines: Have you followed the guidelines of the assignment correctly?
- Organization/Presentation: Did you check your English? Punctuation? Grammar? Is your paper neat and are your thoughts organized?
- Content: Is your information in-depth and accurate?

Grade point equivalents will be as follows:

A: 90 to 100

B: 80 to 89

C: 70 to 79

D: 60 to 69

F Failure: 59 and below.

I = Incomplete

W = Withdrawal

Please note: If you fail both of the proctored exams it will result in a course grade of "F" regardless of the grades on other assignments.

Course Policies

E-mail Policy: As you take this course, you will need to communicate with me. It is my commitment to respond to all input from students requiring a response within 24 hours on business days, and within 48 hours on weekends and holidays. I may be reached at bkflatley@peace.edu

This Is An Online Course: All online courses in the School of Professional Studies are fully online and require the use of Moodle. Weekly readings, activities, and assignments will be listed in

Moodle. If you have any problems accessing Moodle please contact Dr. Lori McClaren, Director of Online Learning at 919-508-2367.

Class Participation: Participation in online discussions is of the essence of this course. In order to succeed in this experience, students must pro-actively contribute to the discussion boards in a timely and engaging manner. Your discussion contributions will be more useful and interesting to your classmates and more productive for you, if you have done the reading in both the textbook and the lecture notes.

Proctoring Policy: All online courses at William Peace University require two (2) proctored exams or activities. Any student who fails BOTH proctored exams/activities will receive an automatic failing grade in the course, regardless of any other grades received. For more information on proctoring options, please see:

<http://www.peace.edu/files/wmpeace/proctoring-options.pdf> .

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is theft; it is the *deliberate or accidental* use of a source's words, interpretation, or information *without properly quoting or paraphrasing and acknowledging that use*. In both the professional world and the academic world, plagiarism is punished. In the professional world, charges of plagiarism, when proven, carry potentially enormous financial penalties. In the academic world, universities and colleges punish plagiarism with varying degrees of severity, with the penalties ranging all the way from expulsion from the school, to automatic 'F' in the course, down to automatic 'F' on the particular project or paper. **There are only two ways to avoid plagiarism:**

1. Quote and Citation: Use the source's *exact* words, place quotation marks at the beginning and end of them, and insert a citation immediately at the end of the quotation according to the standards of the discipline.

2. Paraphrase and Citation: Transform (paraphrase) the source's words and information *entirely* into your own style of writing, and insert a citation at the end of this paraphrase. If what

you write still echoes the source's *words and style*, you have plagiarized. If you fail to insert a citation, you have plagiarized.

Incomplete Policy

An Incomplete is appropriate for a student that has been making steady, successful progress in a course and has an unexpected, verifiable mitigating circumstance at the end of the semester which precludes them from completing the last assignment or exam. Poor time management is not an appropriate reason to request an Incomplete. All incomplete grade requests must be approved first by the Instructor, and then by the Director of Online Programs. If the Incomplete is approved the student will have up to six additional weeks to complete the work, as determined by the Instructor. If the student does not complete the final work, the Instructor will assign the appropriate letter grade for work completed or the grade will revert to an "F."

Honor Code

All students in this class will be held to the William Peace University Honor code. The William Peace University Honor code is as follows: *On my honor as a William Peace University student, I will not lie, cheat, or steal; nor will I condone the actions of those who do.*

Disability

Disability Services are available for students who require reasonable accommodations due to any cognitive, physical, or psychological disability, in order to provide equal access to the educational environment. Students will need to be registered with the office and provide appropriate documentation, in accordance with local, state, and federal laws, in order to receive an Academic Accommodation Plan. For more information or to register, contact Nicole Davis, Director of Counseling and Disability Services at (919) 508-2163 or Nicole.Davis@peace.edu. The Disability Services office is located on the 2nd Floor of Joyner House.

